

Sports Albany High enters baseball season with high expectations [C1]

Arts Ashkenaz hosts a festival of Balkan music and dance [C3]

El Cerrito censures U.S. Patriot Act

Sept. 11 measure
for undermining
citizens' basic rights

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — El Cerrito has moved to El Cerrito eight years ago. The city, which has a population of about 20,000, passed a resolution opposing the act, signed by the city council on Sept. 11, 2001, giving the federal government broader powers of surveillance. The government can detain terrorism suspects for up to a week without charges and has expanded wiretapping

INSIDE

■ Students in Albany and El Cerrito have been vocal in showing their opposition to war. Page A10

of people's civil liberties.

Members of the El Cerrito Democratic Club, which asked the council to pass the resolution, said they were concerned that the act violates freedoms of speech, assembly and religion, rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings and allows for unreasonable searches

and seizures.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a violation of our constitutional rights," said Rose Lernberg, a member of the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

The Patriot Act — the acronym stands for Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism — was passed in October 2001, giving the federal government broader powers of surveillance. The government can detain terrorism suspects for up to a week without charges and has expanded wiretapping

and Internet surveillance powers in terrorism cases.

Mayor Mark Friedman said it was understandable that in the aftermath of Sept. 11 people would be in favor of granting more tools to the federal government to fight terrorism, but those tools shouldn't abridge fundamental human rights.

Councilwoman Sandi Potter said history has shown that governments have taken extreme measures during times of emergency that were later regretted, such as the internment of Japan-

See CENSURE, Page A10

Tell us what you think

El Cerrito and Richmond are among cities that have passed resolutions opposing the U.S. Patriot Act. In February, El Cerrito also passed a resolution opposing the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

We'd like to get readers' reactions to the idea of cities taking stands such as these. Tell us what you think. Agree or disagree? And tell us why. Please keep your letters to 250 words or less. Letters on this topic that we receive before April 11 will be published together.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor/City Resolutions Against War, the Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number — addresses and phone numbers are not published and are used for verification only.



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

ARTIST Sharyl Gates began a mural at the city's Creekside Park in 2000 as a way to cover graffiti. She continues to keep it clean with visits with brushes and paint and has enlisted neighbors and others in the effort.

Artist's mural gives graffiti the brush-off

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Artist Sharyl Gates moved to El Cerrito eight years ago. She grew to really like the city, she said, and is filled with nice peacocks and a pedestrian environment.

She also enjoyed Creekside Park, and she was upset that the walls adjacent to the park were being spray painted with words and what appeared to be graffiti. So she grabbed a brush, some children in the neighborhood and did something

result was a mural more than 100 feet long, with paintings of birds, flowers and an outdoor path and more.

Now, Gates touches up the mural and is again recruiting

people to add to the work and to repaint it when graffiti pops up.

Creekside Park could use some work. Abutting Cerrito Creek and Albany Hill, the park consists of two green fields and out-of-date playground equipment, including a merry-go-round, a slide structure and a swing set — minus the swings.

But Gates likes the park's quiet charm and close proximity to her home and regularly brings her two children there, 12-year-old Cole and 8-year-old Alexandra.

She decided a mural was in order after getting fed up with the graffiti on the walls of homes that back up to the park. "My son was just starting to read and I thought 'This is all I need to see, all these bad words on the wall,'" said Gates, 45.

Gates herself painted a pathway with trees on the wall. The rest of the mural is made up of tic-tac-toe-like grid patterns with individual paintings inside each square. The paintings are of the natural world: flowers, a rabbit, mushroom, fish, snail, duck, salamander, spider, birds, bee hive and more.

The paintings are arranged so that the things that live on the ground such as fish or flowers are on the bottom of the mural; birds and bees are at the top.

In the summer of 2000, Gates had nearly 40 children working with her at various times and knocked on doors to get neighborhood residents involved. On the side is an acknowledgment of the companies that supplied the acrylic and housepaints for

the job: Ace Hardware and Gateview Paints.

"It's kind of impressionistic-looking because it's got a lot of huge, fast, big strokes and stuff," said Gates.

Within the past few months, Gates has painted over new graffiti. And after getting permission from the homeowner, she began creating a new mural on an adjacent wall.

That section of the mural, painted by Gates with help from local children, consists of a grass field, blue sky and flowers.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Gates realized her future was in art when she received a scholarship to attend the Art College of Design in that city.

See MURAL, Page A10

Groups offer waterfront alternative

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The Sierra Club has a plan for the city's waterfront that it says will increase sales tax revenues for the city while keeping key sections of the waterfront open for recreation.

The plan is a response to Magna Entertainment Corp.'s proposal to build a giant development around the Golden Gate Fields Racetrack.

The Magna development would include 300,000

square feet of commercial, retail and entertainment facilities, a 300,000-square-foot event center capable of holding 10,000 people and racetrack simulcast facilities expanded by 100,000 square feet. A parking structure is also proposed.

The Sierra Club and Citizens for the Eastshore State Park Plan want to scale back the project to 325,000 square feet in hotel, restaurant, retail and some office development. That would generate \$1.2 million in tax revenues for the city, more than the \$565,000 the track now produces, according to the groups.

The Sierra Club also wants to see the racetrack removed in order to connect pieces of Eastshore State Park. And it wants no development on top of Fleming Point, where the Turf Club and asphalt parking lot are now.

"We believe the track property should be incorporated into the Eastshore State Park or public open space," said Norman La Force, chair of the Sierra Club's East Bay public lands committee.

Reaction to the Magna plan has been mixed, said Ann Chaney, the Albany community development director. Some people would prefer no development at all, while others are more willing to work with what has been proposed.

Residents will get a chance to weigh in on the proposal during an upcoming community meeting 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 3, in Albany High School's multipurpose room, at 603 Key Route Blvd.

The meeting, organized by city officials, will include a discussion of the community's emerging objectives. City officials will respond to questions residents raised at a previous workshop. For more information, call 510-528-5760.

MEETING

WHAT: Community meeting on proposed development on Albany waterfront by Magna Entertainment Corp.

WHERE: multipurpose room, Albany High School, 603 Key Route Blvd.

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 3

INFORMATION: 510-528-5760.

Albany gets street repair program off the ground

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Half a million dollars will be spent on street repair this summer, heralding the start of the city's annual street repair program.

Repairs of three streets will

receive an asphalt overlay, and sections of 30 other streets will receive a slurry seal treatment that fills in cracks and helps prevent further deterioration.

The city's infrastructure is old, and it needs to be replaced.

See PAVEMENT, Page A10

Mid-year school cuts lower than expected

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Mid-year budget cuts signed by Gov. Gray Davis this week will cost the West Contra Costa school district about \$700,000, well below the \$2.5 million district officials had projected.

School board President Pat Poirer said reductions in staff, overtime, substitute teachers and

other cost-savings already instituted this year will make up for the mid-year reductions.

Next year's budget cuts are expected to be far more severe. School district officials are projecting \$12 million to \$14 million in reductions for the 2003-2004 school year.

Several hundred students, parents and teachers packed a

Wednesday night school board meeting at Pinole Valley High School. Waving pink slips and signs in the air, they protested proposed cuts to elective courses and teaching and counselor positions.

"I ask, I beg, and I plead with you, save our schools, save our teachers, and save our counselors," said a teary-eyed Nita

Sisamouth, a sophomore at Middle College High School.

Speakers at the sometimes raucous meeting asked board members to consider retirement incentives for employees, a reduction in staff development days or a decrease in administrative salaries.

See SCHOOLS, Page A10

INSIDE

Library column

■ You can find a world of languages at your local branch. Page A5

New column

■ Suzanne Conrad welcomes us to join "Shoreline Walks." Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ Doing the right thing isn't always clearcut. Page A3

Police Reports	A2
CommunityFolk	A3
Opinion	A4
Sports	C1
Arts	C3
Crossword	C6

IN BRIEF

Albany

Students direct 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

The Albany High School Theater Ensemble will present the second of two student-directed shows, "Arsenic and Old Lace," tonight at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m.

The theater ensemble was created in 1993 by a group of students who contributed their own money to establish a theater program at Albany High. It has since become one of the largest and most successful clubs in the school. The group puts on two productions a year, one in the fall with an outside director (hired with proceeds from ticket sales), and a student-directed show in the spring. Supervised by Albany High art and theater teacher Sarah Samonsky, the shows are managed, acted and produced by students.

Admission is \$10 general, \$5 for students and seniors. For details, call 510-558-2500, ext. 2579, or e-mail theaterensemble@hotmail.com.

Seniors can learn about legal assistance

A staff attorney for Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) will present a timely and informative program on the group's services to Alameda County seniors on 1:30 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library 1247 Marin Ave.

The speaker will cover elder abuse, housing, income, health care, incapacity issues, citizenship and grandparent caregiver issues, as well as give an overview of the services of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). There will be time for questions. The event is wheelchair accessible, and refreshments will be provided by Friends of the Albany Library.

For more information, call Library Senior Services at 510-745-1499 or 510-745-1491.

Translator-poet featured at library

John Oliver Simon, a Berkeley poet and teacher who also is a widely published translator, will be the featured poet at the Albany Library's First Thursday 7 to 9 p.m. April 6 in the Edith Stone Room. Simon's most recent book is "Caminante: A Narrow Road into the Far South."

Second Wednesdays a drop-in poetry writing workshop, for all ages, is led by Alison Seevak. The next event is 7 to 9 p.m. April 9, also in the Edith Stone Room.

Second Saturdays, Seevak leads a drop-in poetry writing workshop for grades 4-8. The next one is 2 to 4 p.m. April 12.

All three events are free. Light refreshments will be served. The Albany Library is at 1247 Marin Ave. For details, call 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

El Cerrito

PageTurners read 'Secret Life of Bees'

El Cerrito High School's book club, the Page Turners, will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the school, 540 Ashbury Avenue, room 604. The group will discuss the book "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. For more information, call Paula Gocker at 510-524-9560.

Friends of ECHS present Casino Night

The El Cerrito High School casino night and silent auction is set 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, March 28, at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. There will be food, music, dancing, a silent auction, games and prizes. The event is presented by the Friends of El Cerrito High School. Tickets are \$25, \$40 for two, and can be purchased in advance or at the door. For details, call Janet McKnight at 510-525-3272.

Volunteers invited to help plant trees

Volunteers are being sought for a tree planting project at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 22. Members of The Friends of El Cerrito Trees and volunteers will plant street trees in the parking strips on Richmond Street between Potrero and Stockton avenues, with help from workers in the city's maintenance department.

The project is funded through a grant from California ReLeaf. Information on tree planting and tree care will be provided before and during the planting. Refreshments will be served around noon. For details, call 510-527-2402, e-mail info@ECTrees.org or see www.ECTrees.org.

Kensington

Celebration benefits building, programs

The Kensington Community Council's 15th Annual Spring Celebration will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. There will be hors d'oeuvres, desserts, fine wines and nonalcoholic beverages.

The Millennium Strings will perform, and there will be a silent auction of work by local artists and authors. Child care, including a light meal and entertainment, will be available for children ages 3 to 11. Attending the event costs \$25; children are free.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will benefit the maintenance and renovations of Building E and Kensington Park, as well as the expansion of the recreation program and the Kensington After-School Enrichment Program. Eugene J. Millstein & Associates Real Estate at 264 Arlington Ave. and Andronico's Market are underwriting the event.

To donate items for the silent auction, call Danielle Power at 510-524-6737. For more information, call Vida Dorroh at 510-527-3169.

Preservation awards nominations open

Nominations are being taken for the National Preservation Awards, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Winners will be honored at a conference in Denver, Colo., Sept. 30 through Oct. 5.

Individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations and agencies that have helped save a part of American heritage during the past three years may be nominated.

Information: Call 202-588-6236 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.

CORRECTION

A March 14 story about the McBride School of Irish Dancing should have said that dancers from the school would perform at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 24 at the Eagles Club in El Cerrito.

ALBANY POLICE

Monday, March 10

- **THEFT** — A business on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that thieves stole two power tools and fled in a silver vehicle. They were gone when officers arrived.
- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — Officers located a dark blue '94 Chevrolet on the 900 block of Adams Street that had been reported as stolen in a car jacking in San Francisco. They did not have anyone in custody and are assisting San Francisco Police with the investigation.
- **ATTEMPTED ROBBERY** — At about 10:30 p.m. an Albany man reported that while he and his wife were walking on the 1000 block of Solano Avenue two subjects, described as male adults, pulled up to them in a dark gray Honda hatchback. The passenger, who was described as about 18 years old, wearing a dark leather jacket and an earring, pointed a gun at the couple and demanded money. The driver also had a gun. The man's wife ran for home and the vehicle was last seen traveling north on Madison Street. It was gone from the area when officers arrived.
- **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 11:30 p.m. officers observed a 27-year-old Albany man near Gilman Street and San Pablo Avenue who was known to have outstanding Berkeley warrants for petty theft in the amount of \$5,000. He ran when he saw the officers but was apprehended and arrested. He was transported to Santa Rita Jail.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A resident on the 1000 block of Stannage Avenue reported that thieves had stolen her gray '84 Oldsmobile Cutlass. Two days later her son located the car in Richmond and drove it home.

Tuesday, March 11

- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — Officers arrested a 23-year-old Albany man near Madison and Castro streets for outstanding warrants from 2001 for disorderly conduct.
- **THEFT** — A resident on the 1000 block of Peralta reported that thieves stole three mosaic stepping-stones from her front yard during the night. There were no witnesses.
- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 11:30 p.m. Officers responded

Thursday, March 6

- **ATTEMPTED VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — An attempt was made to enter a vehicle using a shaved key on the 3400 block of Yosemite Avenue sometime between 11 p.m. on March 6 and 8:20 a.m. the next day. There was no loss.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A purple 1994 Honda Civic was stolen from a parking lot on the 3100 block of Yosemite Avenue sometime between 8 p.m. on March 6 and 8 a.m. the next day.
- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1994 Saturn SL was recovered by a police officer at San Diego Street and Yosemite Avenue. The vehicle had been stolen in San Francisco on March 6.

Friday, March 7

- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1991 Honda Civic was recovered by a police officer on the 2000 block of Mira Vista Drive. The vehicle had been reported stolen in Richmond the previous day.
- Saturday, March 8**
- **BURGLARY** — Property was taken from a home on the 5600 block of Macdonald Avenue sometime between 4:30 and 6 p.m. The home was entered through a basement door.
 - **SHOPLIFTING** — A 36-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Target at 2:25 p.m.
 - **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo was stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Alameda Street sometime between 1 and 5 a.m. A window was smashed.
 - **VEHICLE BURGLARIES** — Three juveniles were arrested on suspicion of burglarizing two vehicles on the 3300 and 3400 blocks of Belmont Avenue at 11:40 p.m. All the suspects were booked and released to their parents.

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to reports of a subject walking down the middle of San Pablo Avenue and yelling. Officers contacted the 24-year-old El Cerrito man and found him to be intoxicated. He was arrested for disorderly conduct, cited and released.

Wednesday, March 12

- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — Vallejo police located a red '98 Acura Integra that had been stolen from Albany on March 8. It was not damaged but both license plates were missing. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.
- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — Police at Contra Costa College reported locating a dark blue Honda Civic that had been stolen from Albany on March 10. There was minor damage to the car and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

Thursday, March 13

- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 2 a.m. officers contacted two people walking in the middle of San Pablo Avenue and taking roadway cones. The 21-year-old Albany woman and the 25-year-old Richmond man were found to be intoxicated. They were arrested for disorderly conduct, cited and released.
- **VEHICLE VANDALIZED** — Vandals smashed all the windows and punctured all the tires of a red Chevrolet parked on the 900 block of Fillmore Street. There were no witnesses.
- **ROBBERY** — At about 12:30 p.m. a bank i the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that they had just been robbed by a subject described as a male adult, about 5-foot-8, with black hair and a goatee, wearing blue jeans and a white shirt. He was last seen traveling north on San Pablo Avenue on foot and was gone when officers arrived.
- **STOLEN PROPERTY** — Officers responded to Golden Gate Fields on reports of two subjects in custody regarding a stolen vehicle. Officers arrested the San Francisco man for grand theft auto and possession of stolen property. They arrested the Oakland woman for disorderly conduct and for an outstanding warrant for assault charges. They were both transported to the Berkeley Jail.

EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, March 6

- **VEHICLE ALARM** — The car alarm of a vehicle on the 2100 block of Kearney Street sounded at 10:30 a.m. after an object was jammed into the door lock.
- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo and amplifier worth a total of \$850 was stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Liberty Street sometime between 12:30 and 5 a.m.

Sunday, March 9

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A juvenile driving a stolen Toyota van crashed into a tree around 3:30 a.m. at Barker Avenue and State Court after police began pursuing the van at Cutting Boulevard and South 49th Street. Four people fled the van but the driver and one passenger were caught. The driver was sent to Juvenile Hall and the passenger was booked on suspicion of vehicle theft and released to his aunt.
- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo faceplate and Fasttrack device were stolen from a 1987 Volvo on the 5400 block of Hillside Avenue sometime between 7:30 p.m. on March 10 and 8:15 a.m. the next day.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A juvenile driving a stolen Toyota van crashed into a tree around 3:30 a.m. at Barker Avenue and State Court after police began pursuing the van at Cutting Boulevard and South 49th Street. Four people fled the van but the driver and one passenger were caught. The driver was sent to Juvenile Hall and the passenger was booked on suspicion of vehicle theft and released to his aunt.

Tuesday, March 11

- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo and CDs worth \$316 were stolen from a 1998 Jeep Cherokee on the 800 block of Kearney Street sometime between 11:30 p.m. on March 11 and 7 a.m. the next day.
- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1985 Honda Accord was recovered on the 6800 block of Eureka Avenue. The vehicle was reported stolen in Oakland on March 4.
- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A portable

- **THEFTS** — A resident on the 1100 block of Santa Fe Avenue reported that between 1 and 2 p.m. thieves stole a red and green bike from her garage. Thieves also stole a potted plant off the porch of a residence on the 800 block of Spokane Avenue. There were no witnesses in either incident.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — At about 8:30 p.m. Officers stopped to assist a disabled vehicle near the Cleveland Street off-ramp from I-80 when the driver flagged them. The vehicle turned out to have been stolen from San Mateo on March 11. They arrested the 46-year-old San Mateo man for car stealing and possession of stolen property. He was transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Friday, March 14

- **VEHICLE THEFT, RECOVERY** — During the night thieves stole a red '95 Toyota pickup parked on the 1400 block of Thousand Oaks Avenue. It was located in Richmond about 6 p.m. It was not damaged and Richmond police did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified and picked up the vehicle at the scene.
- **THEFT** — A resident on the 1100 block of Stannage Avenue reported that someone had stolen mail from her mailbox, opened it and then threw it into her neighbor's garbage. There were no witnesses.
- **TRESPASSING, DRUGS** — Officers arrested three non-students who were seen running from Albany High School north on the 500 block of Pomona Avenue. The three 14-year-old boys, two from El Cerrito and one from Richmond, were charged with trespassing. One of the El Cerrito boys was also charged with possession of marijuana. They were cited and released to their mothers or guardians.
- **VANDALISM** — A resident on the 1200 block of Garfield Street reported that her home had been vandalized by subjects using paintball guns. There were no witnesses.
- **DRUG POSSESSION** — At about 9:30 p.m. officers responded to the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports of juveniles in a white '00 Ford Focus who were drinking beer and obviously under the age of 21. Officers contacted the group and noted the odor of alcohol. They also ob-

Saturday, March 15

- **DISTURBANCE** — A 45-year-old woman, on suspicion of being a public nuisance, was cited for being at a bar on the San Pablo Avenue and was released.
- **ROBBERY** — A subject described as a 6-foot tall, wearing a dark jacket and jeans and a hooded sweatshirt, dished a semi-automatic handgun at a business clerk at a business on the 500 block of Solano Avenue. The clerk fled and the subject fled. The subject was arrested when officers arrived.
- **SCHOOL VANDALISM** — A subject broke the glass in the courtyard of a 1000 block of Santa Rita Street and also threw empty cans into the schoolyard. Police are investigating witnesses' notes.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A gray '96 Toyota pickup was stolen from the southeast corner of the intersection of the 1500 block of Solano Avenue and Kearney Street between 9 p.m. on March 11 and 10 a.m. the next day.
- **STOLEN CHECK** — Two Richmond men were arrested at 11 a.m. after an attempt was made to deposit a stolen check at Washington Mutual bank.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A brown 1990 Dodge Dakota pickup truck was stolen from the 1500 block of Lexington Avenue sometime between 8 p.m. on March 11 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Wednesday, March 12

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1995 Jeep Cherokee was stolen from the 8100 block of Terrace Drive sometime between 6 p.m. on March 12 and 6:30 a.m. the next day.
- **PURSE SNATCHED** — A 20-year-old man snatched the purse of a woman walking home from school on Barrett Avenue at Mira Vista Drive around 4 p.m. The purse contained change, house keys and ID cards.
- **ROBBERY** — Three men, one armed with a handgun, robbed a person of \$8 and a cell phone on the 5500 block of Moeser Lane at 8:35 p.m. The robbers fled south on the Ohlone Greenway.
- **BREAK-IN** — A home on the 1800 block of Key Boulevard was entered

THE JOURNAL

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DOUG DURAN/STAFF

The art of the book

Salah Laigo of Richmond watches as artist Yasin Sayan's helps her make a handmade book during the Richmond Art Open House and Family Day, held Saturday, March 15. The day was a free event for families from all over to learn about the arts and educational offerings. For information on these, call the center at 510-620-6772.

Earning respect for high school freshman English

QUESTION: WHAT do Dave Greer and Yasin Sayan have in common?

Very little except both went "back to the future" to make a movie by that name, and I don't know whether there was any teaching going on. Most of you, I have read articles about kids graduating high school unable to write. I have also heard you complain that new teachers can't compose a sentence a paragraph. I don't set well with this, so I went to Albany to see what kind of money is being made in this. This is the first of the columns in which I relate my experiences in real life with real teachers and students.

Here are my impressions: I was going to get an idea of all of the English, I visit where Gloria Sims teaches for 22 years, and she has nine freshmen English, all with essentially the same curriculum. Like most teachers, Sims has no idea what the show on the

class is starting to do. Edmond Rosyano de Bergerac, a comedy set in the 17th century and popular since first



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

produced in France in 1918. The students have been thoroughly prepared for this by discussions of character and motivation, work sheets and a "quick-write" paper.

This is just as well, because the first act is a play within a play which does not lend itself to part reading. Sims explains that while the dialogue appears "line by line, the action is simultaneous as in a movie."

She urges the students to, "Move quickly through the reading; don't let it bog down. Exaggerate your acting! We know each other now, so let it all hang out!"

The readings live on. Soon to suggest the scene. Begin there is a discussion of the plot: Roxanne is loved by both Cyrano, brilliant but ugly, and Christian, handsome but dull. Sims asks the students how they would choose between inner and outward beauty in their own lives knowing that they must, "live with the person for 50 years."

A wag suggests taking both, "One for night, one for day."

Another asks, "Is plastic

surgery an option?" A thoughtful third suggests that having a number of friends might help ease the boredom.

Sims allows that, "The boredom could be pretty intense" with a dull partner. There are, of course, no answers to this eternal question, but humor has drawn the youths into the core of the play and made it relevant to them. Later they will laugh and marvel at Cyrano's rapier wit, and perhaps cry, as so many have, over the play's denouement. Few will forget this experience.

The class has read "Romeo and Juliet" and will compare Cyrano and Roxanne to these star-crossed, teenage lovers. The year began with a collection of short stories followed by "The Odyssey." Later they will read "Of Mice and Men," "Catcher in the Rye" and "To Kill a Mockingbird." And students are expected to read one book on their own each quarter.

Words for vocabulary study are taken from the readings so they can be understood in context. A "word of the day" is posted in class, and there are tests. "Pugnacious" and "belligerent" describe Cyrano and make the list. Those interested in SAT scores take vocabulary particularly seriously.

The almost daily "quick-write" papers are based on the readings, as is a longer composition stemming from each

work. Sims says this paper goes through, "a minimum of three drafts we call editing, revising and rewriting."

She teaches students to develop their own writing styles and become proficient in the five-paragraph analytical essay. They study grammar as problems surface in compositions.

Ninth-grade students learn research and debate skills in English, statistics and spreadsheet skills in math and Power-Point skills in science.

These studies culminate in formal debates of bio-ethical issues at the end of the first semester. (Sample: "Should doctor-assisted suicide be allowed?") The course will end with a poetry workshop, which Sims says the students "enjoy immensely."

I enjoyed this class immensely, as I suspect Dangerfield would have, but not without voicing his usual, double-negative complaint: "I don't get no respect!" The program was plenty serious for me, and I was glad I didn't have to do the homework along with that from other classes I would carry as a student. There are advantages to being your Man About Town.

Dave Greer is a veteran newspaperman who tells the truth politely.

Time to 'do the wise thing' — whatever that may be

"No jokes today. With fighting about to break out in the Persian Gulf, I'm reminded how right Ben Franklin was when he said, 'There never was a good war or a bad peace.'"



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

I WROTE those words in 1991, at the start of Operation Desert Storm. And they seem even truer today.

Everyone seems so sure of where they stand on this war; I'm probably the only person in America who still hasn't made up his mind. Listening to Tony Blair, he makes a lot of sense. But listening to Carl Levin, he makes a lot of sense, too. But no matter what your position, you have to worry about the price.

I don't mean just blood and treasure, although we're likely to lose plenty of both. What's really frightening is that we might start turning on each other.

After all, when Franklin said there was no such thing as a good war, he was speaking during a war he wholeheartedly supported: the American Revolution. And he was speaking from personal experience: The war cost him his relationship with his own son, William, who stayed loyal to England. They never spoke to each other again.

■ ■ ■

I fear something similar is happening today. People seem to be talking past each other; it's as if they're talking about two different wars. One side sees the other as cowboys; the other side sees the first side as cowards. And on both sides, double standards rule. It's the mindset that says, "I'm idealistic; you're immoral."

For instance, the death of Rachel Corrie, the peace activist who was crushed by an Israeli army bulldozer she was trying to stop from leveling a Palestinian house, was truly tragic. What's also sad is that there are no peace activists in front of Israeli discos and pizza parlors, as symbolic shields against suicide bombers. Double standard.

And wouldn't it be nice if some of those volunteer "human shields," who are in Baghdad to protect Iraqis from American bombs, were with U.S. troops in Kuwait as symbolic shields against Iraqi chemical attacks? Double standard.

But double standards aren't

confined to the left. They're running rampant on the right, too — starting with President Bush.

He promised to be a uniter, not a divider. But that went out the window as soon as he took office, despite the no-mandate result of the 2000 election. Even when Sept. 11 gave him a second chance to get it right, he stayed on a rightward tack. With both appointments and policies, it's been "my way or the highway." Double standard.

There's also a haunting fear that he might not be up to the job. I'm glad he has the certainty that comes from his religious faith; it was his greatest strength in the days after Sept. 11. Unfortunately, it's now become his greatest weakness, because it makes him — to put it charitably — uncaring about opposing points of view.

Not that his critics are any better. Both Schroeder of Germany and Chirac of France are pandering to the worst elements in their societies: ex-communists and neo-Nazis who would love nothing better than to stick it to America and the Jews. And I'm sure it isn't lost on them that every time they bash Bush, they're lessening the chances that al-Qaida will attack Berlin or Paris. Neville Chamberlain would be proud.

To tell you the truth, I'm scared. I don't trust any of these guys — Bush, Saddam, Chirac, Putin, et al — to do the wise thing. I worry about the devastating consequences if we act, and I worry about the devastating consequences if we don't. As Yeats said, "The best have lost all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

Say a prayer for our country — and for the world.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

Many martial arts instructor explains aspects of aikido

MAIDA teaches peace and harmony through martial arts. She interviewed him I challenge him to prove to me that he can teach peace through martial arts — and he did.

I instructed me to try to resist when he raised my arm. Of course, he easily raised my arm. He asked me to release myself and let him try the arm. Amazingly, it was harder for him than it was for me. He said, "That's what he said, was the peace and harmony, calming."

and calm, one can feel and feel much more effectively. The peace is aikido. It is an arm of the "budo" — literally "way of putting in" — says "The protection is aware-



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

Maida explained: If someone is striking us — verbally, physically or financially — we cannot in good conscience strike back. If we are calm and aware, we can see many options and responses. Physically, if we are doing no wrong and someone is attacking us, then they are out of harmony with the universe. For us to attack that person would put us out of harmony. It is up to the trained person to bring the attacker back into harmony.

This can be done in many ways, Maida said. A martial artist can keep that calmness, even in the midst of an attack,

doing the least harm. This, he said, takes skill, talent and training.

He speaks of the need for calm reasoning and actions as a response to violence. He speaks of the Japanese idea of *shin shin toitsu*, the coordination of mind and body, the commitment that is real strength. "When a baby is holding something he really wants, it is very hard to take it away from him. He is committed in mind and body."

Someone gem: If you meet someone who is trying to hurt you it takes less effort to get away than to overpower him.

In addition to his regular classes at the Albany Recreation Center, Maida teaches relaxation at Kaiser and at Juvenile Hall.

Maida, who was born in the Bronx to a Sicilian mother and Japanese father, has taught martial arts for 32 years. He looked, unsuccessfully, for his

Japanese roots when he studied Karate in Harlem.

When he moved to California in the '70s, he found and was apprenticed to an aikido teacher who had just come from Japan. After four years he went to Japan for training with a teacher whom he visits four times a year.

Maida opened his first school in Mendocino, then he opened in Berkeley, and he now teaches adults and children Monday through Saturday at the Albany Recreation Center.

He also is a Zen Buddhist priest, the Chief Instructor of the Northern California Ki Society, a husband and the father of three.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crngenser@aol.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

EDITORIAL

Protest — the right way

PROTESTS ARE erupting around the Bay Area against the invasion of Iraq, with San Francisco as the focal point and smaller events happening closer to home, even in our cities of Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington.

And this is a strange, unsettled time in which there also are protests and outrage about what's happening in our schools, as districts threaten to slash deeply into programs to cut their budgets.

Moral outrage is in the air, and our young people are getting a crash course in political awareness and how to speak out. That's a good thing.

So far the protests in our little corner of the Bay Area have been peaceful. We urge continued restraint and common sense as they go on.

Students, parents and teachers crowded this week's West Contra Costa Unified School District board meeting. The waving signs were creative — one simply listed administrators' impressive salaries — and the speeches were impassioned.

Sometimes the grasp of facts was shaky, but the students spoke from the heart about their dreams for the future.

They spoke of their fears that if the proposed budget cuts come to pass, they won't be able to take the classes they need to get into state universities, and that their artistic expression will be cut off. They worried about their younger siblings' future in the school.

They pointed out that, should the public schools fail, most of their families can't afford the alternative of private school.

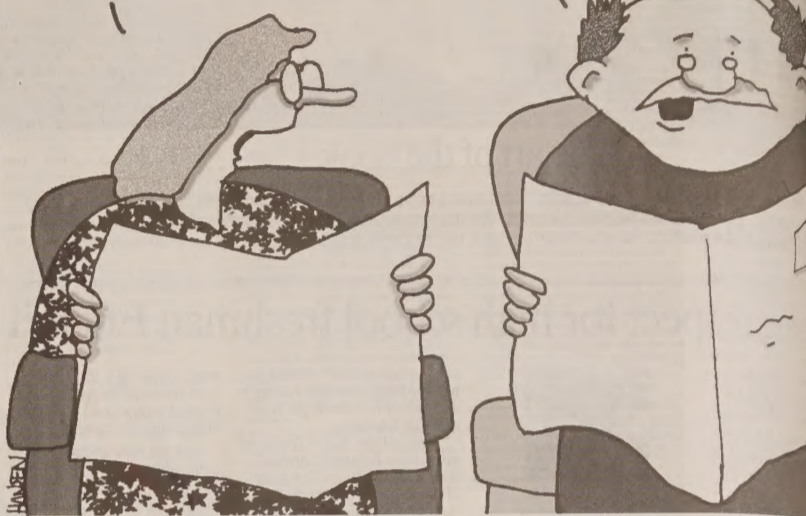
Antiwar protests in our area have taken the form of vigils, student walkouts — which often were combined with protest of budget cuts — and peace e-mail trees.

And though, as always happens, legitimate protesters are joined by those who simply want to cut class or cut up in general, peaceful protests will always be the best avenue toward change.

Students are anxious, El Cerrito High School principal Vince Rhea pointed out, because of the war and the budget crisis. That school set up an open mike to let students have their say about the war, and encouraged teachers to let students discuss it in class.

The principal has the right idea and the right response.

We urge protesters and particularly our young people to keep speaking from the heart and to remember that protests work, and that they work best, when they're peaceful.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS
GET READY FOR NICE WEATHER?WHAT'S THE
VERNAL EQUINOX?I THINK IT'S A FA
WAY TO SAY IT'S SPR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exile Saddam, Bush

Here's a new proposal for preventing war in Iraq, a serious proposal that could avert war and change the conditions that brought us to the brink of war. Quixotic? Yes. Impossible? No. Worth a try? Yes.

This proposed "time out" would change the immediate power structure, break old alliances and demonstrate that the leaders really care about their nations. If the leaders of the United States and Iraq truly want to avert this war, and prevent future wars, the leaders of both nations must make significant personal sacrifices.

Both leaders should go into exile — exile supervised by the United Nations — for five years, taking their top officers and families with them. Elections should be held in both countries and new governments installed.

Iraq must destroy all biological and nuclear weapons. The United States would stop further nuclear weapons' development and sign the Kyoto agreement to stop our massive, disproportional attack on the environment.

Rosemary Loubal
El Cerrito

Grateful food pantry

Since 1971, the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry has opened its doors, two days each week, to distribute nutritious food packages to West County's poor, through a dedicated network of volunteers.

In the last five months, there has been an increase in the number of people who come to the pantry for emergency relief during these tough times. Not surprisingly, food expenses increased last year and there were government cutbacks, as well as donor drop-off due to attrition and economic hardship. Volunteers' concern was mounting.

Then the pantry experienced another kind of increase: the number of people and organizations that made donations. The level of giving went up during the annual fund drive. More than 300 donors from West County, as well as Alameda and Marin counties, rallied to the emergency request for financial support and gave the pantry its most successful fundraising campaign ever.

As board president of the pantry, I wish to acknowledge the generosity of these communities and to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who showed their belief in the pantry and the service it provides.

To learn more, receive food, volunteer, or donate, write to the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry at P.O. Box 2598, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or call 510-527-2783.

Robin Winton
El Cerrito

What do they say?

Perhaps it is time we had a word with the family and loved ones of Sept. 11 victims — on their thoughts and ideas on this war with Iraq. Who better to express their views on this war on terrorism?

It is really hard for me to take much stock in a bunch of kids protesting something, unless their parents are right there with them. I would venture a guess that 95 percent of Americans do not want a war, but more than 80 percent approve

of the "war on terrorism."

Count me as one in each group. A wise man once told me that opinions are like noses; almost everyone has one.

I also had a secretary who had a pet saying: "It's only my opinion, but it's true." It seems the feelings of the populace of this great United States is fast becoming of this "opinion."

Back to the gist of this letter, my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the victims of Sept. 11. Could we please hear what you feel about our president on this war matter?

Earl Cook
El Cerrito

Self-sacrificing love

Those able and willing to justify a U.S. military action against Iraq, as is proposed by President Bush and his loyal posse, are following the reasonings of their minds.

Any and all suggestions of exercising self-sacrifice, such as patience, uncertainty, or forgiveness will always fly in the face of the logic of one determined to cater to his own self-interest.

Those who make these suggestions are considered ridiculous and are often labeled self-centered liberals, peaceniks, naive pacifists — end of discussion.

The problem with these "unpatriotic" people, who are unwilling and unable to just go along with "the program," is that, in this case, they are listening to their hearts. The heart, if listened to, demands self-sacrificing love and requires no justification other than love itself.

Ron Greenstein
El Cerrito

Kudos to council

Bravo to the El Cerrito City Council for taking the time to discuss and pass a resolution in opposition to the invasion of Iraq.

It is entirely relevant to the community and sends a message to us all that we can take an active stand against this "war."

Julie Lawrence
Albany

Save Albany Bulb

I cannot believe Magna Corp.'s Rancho San Antonio development is seriously being considered.

This is the proposal for a huge hotel-conference-shopping-restaurant monstrosity at Golden Gate Fields racetracks that would completely destroy the beauty and uniqueness of the area.

The Albany landfill area directly behind the racetracks, known as the Albany Bulb, represents the very last piece of shoreline available in the East Bay. It is

visited by thousands of people with their friends and their dogs, enjoying the breathtaking views, the wildlife and the roses, irises and other plants that sprang from refuse dumped there.

Artists have been at the Bulb building and creating incredible art out of the pieces of boats, wood that float to shore. Even an exploration. Each season a new beauty there.

At the Bulb, you can live out of daily life behind and back of being in a place far away city. It is truly priceless. Please save it.

Dictator Bush

I am writing in response to your war hawk letter I've read to the

Nine times out of 10, the have used language similar to yours: "Bleeding-heart, un-American liberals have no valid argument against war; just a lot of name calling and people who oppose them." I am sure you are supporting a dictator who rules his people through fear.

Well, I'm an anti-war liberal. I won't call names, I won't point out but I would like to point out the of such statements. No valid argument for their belief? Just a lot of name calling of the opposition? Sounds like the pot calling the kettle black.

And as far as supporting weapons who rules through fear, let me say I'm fully in support of ousting the current dictator who is using weapons of mass destruction against them against any nation that opposes him. So, when are we invading Iraq? C.G.

Thinking good thoughts

Prayer means different things to different people. It can be formal, meditation, affirmation or praise. I appeal to a higher sense of the spirit of life or love, or to a sense of these qualities.

Even five minutes spent in prayer, what is good, loving, truthful, affirming about human existence, uplift thought to face difficulties and disaster with greater equanimity to look for solutions where there are none.

Affirming the ability of our fellow the highest sense of life and prayer. Praising all that is good in this earth is a prayer, what is sense may be of its source. We are capable of creating more of humanity is prayer.

Meditation, prayer, focus on what is positive and hopeful, man existence and affirming all creatures to manifest their imagine if all people, everywhere, some time each day in this way.

This is valuable and worthy of consideration.

Marilyn

NO EXIT

© Andy Singer

DECISIONS



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 1801 N. California Blvd., Ste. 103, Walnut Creek CA 94596; 925-932-8899 or 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through ww.house.gov/tauscher

Governor

Gov. Gray Davis: Constituent Affairs, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-2841. Fax: 916-445-4633. E-mail: governor@governor.ca.gov.

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Rich-

mond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942649, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 101 Broadway, Richmond, CA 94804; 510-234-0211; Fax: 510-234-0213.

County Supervisors

John Giola: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: distri@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School board members

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Karen Leong Fenton, school board president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3786



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

Just a suggestion

EL CERRITO High students Tori ... 14, and Austin Gray, ... react to hypnotist ... Cady's suggestion that ... a naked audience ... show at El Cerrito High ... Friday, March 14. Cristiano, ... billed as the World's ... Hypnotist. The show ... fund-raiser for grad night



Libraries offer languages of the world

Quote of the week:
"Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we think about."
— Benjamin Lee Whorf, engineer and linguist, 1897-1941

LAST WEEK, after studying (or restudying) French for six months, I decided to switch to Arabic. I used to speak some French so I think it's possible I had an inflated idea of my ability to learn another language. Or maybe it's just that Arabic is difficult to learn for someone who is a native English speaker.

In fact, on the "Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center" Web site, Arabic is in Category IV (interesting how this sounds like the description of a hurricane), along with Chinese Mandarin, Japanese and Korean. It is considered more difficult than Turkish, Hebrew, Tagalog, Thai and even Greek, which, like the phrase "rocket science," has made its way into our clichés for things that are challenging.

Consequently, I'm still learning how to say "Hello," "Good-bye," "Please," "Thank you," and "My name is Julie." The materials I'm using for this are from our library system, because, like most libraries, we have a section of foreign language books, tapes and even videos. Which is how I came to be telling you about this.

What languages can you learn using library materials? I searched in the Alameda County library catalogue using the subject search "sound recordings for English speak-



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

ers," since I was especially interested in the ones with an audio component, and I was surprised at the range.

We offer 37 different languages, including Amharic (do you know where they speak this?), Yiddish, Gujarati, Swahili, Polish and several Asian languages. The Contra Costa County Library system has 41 languages, including Esperanto, Zulu, Persian, Welsh and Latin (presumably not a native Latin speaker).

Richmond Public offers 37 languages, including four dialects of Arabic, Khmer, Somali and Panjabi. All three of these library systems also have extensive collections of sound recordings and books for people who speak one (or more) of these many languages and are learning English.

These popular materials range from very beginning to advanced and even cover accents and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). Each branch has its own special collection, appropriate for their community: Amharic, for instance (okay, it's spoken in Ethiopia), was requested by a Fremont patron.

For Arabic, I started with "In-Flight Arabic," a pamphlet and CD set. I think the course

is designed for someone on their way to an Arabic-speaking country, so the emphasis is on learning simple phrases, rather than reading and writing. I've been studying the first two lessons for a week, so I would have to be taking a boat for this to actually work for me, but the drills are simple to follow and the voices alternate between a man's and a woman's.

However, none of the words in the pamphlet are written in Arabic, so I've supplemented it with a beginning Arabic book. Every morning I add a few more letters of the alphabet and review what I've forgotten. I'm really good at the first three letters, although I'm not sure how to pronounce them. But I'm having a good time.

READER REVIEW: Today's book review is from David and the book is the mystery "Deja Dead," by Kathy Reichs. David says the book is about "a forensic anthropologist who solves gruesome mysteries and who is always on the verge of being in danger because of her investigations."

He recommends the book because "it's the literary equivalent of CSI but much, much better. It has a great deal of information about identifying human remains and also about Montreal."

One word David would use to describe this book is "compelling."

Julie Winkelstein's column runs every Friday. Reach her at the Albany Library or at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org

Falcon makes Albany a stop on its winter tour

IN THE Albany plateau, ... new Eastshore ... State Park, my husband ... were birding on New ... Day when we spotted a ... falcon. It was ... on one of the old pil- ... of the northern shore. ... our amazement, we saw ... dive to attack a ... of sandpipers in the wa- ... one from the ... of the group. After ... three swoops (or ... in birding lingo), it ... with the doomed sand- ... talons. Harassed by ... gull, it flew north, set- ... one of the radio towers ...

you go looking for a per- ... watch for the distinctive ... helmet curving down be- ... feathered cheek. My ... book says they like open



SUZANNE CONRAD
Shoreline Walks

wetlands near cliffs, and prey chiefly on ducks, shorebirds and seabirds. This bird is a supreme hunter, catching its prey at the bottom of vertical dives of up to 100 mph from high in the air.

Peregrine falcons were reintroduced in California after DDT nearly wiped them out in the United States, with just two nesting pairs remaining in the state in 1970. Our mudflats are one of the few remaining stopovers for birds migrating



along the Pacific Flyway, making them a great place to spot these beautiful birds.

This is the first installment of a regular column by Suzanne Conrad. A member of the Albany Waterfront Committee

and docent at Audubon Canyon Ranch, Conrad will be writing about the natural habitat along Albany's shoreline. E-mail your personal bird sightings from the park to Conrad_suzanne@hotmail.com.

EL CERRITO SCHOOL NEWS

Albany Middle School

TOUR: The band will play at ... Harding and Fairmont el- ... schools on Tuesday, March ... members should meet at the ... at 8:25; they will arrive ... to El Cerrito during seventh period. ... for the tour are still ... Email: ...@aol.com.

Albany School

Auction will be held on Sat- ... April 5th at Mira Vista Country ... Open open at 7 p.m. for the ... auction: live auction begins at ... Some of the items to be ... include: seven nights in a Kona, ... condo; two nights in an ... roomer at Hill House Inn, ... tickets to the Oakland ... San Francisco Opera, Philhar- ... Baroque Orchestra, the Grand ... and Race and Horse Show, and ... A's games; dinner at ... including Forda, Rivoli, ... Beauregard's and much ... There will be complimentary hot ... hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer ... Tickets are \$20 in ad-

vance, \$25 at the door. Information: Donna Houser, 510-233-7550.

El Cerrito High School

A new group for parents and guardians of children with disabilities focuses on peer support and advocacy skills training. Co-facilitated by an attorney/advocate and a therapist, this new group combines the parent support with parent education, to help families of children with disabilities cope with parenting demands and become successful advocates. It is sponsored by go FARI Family Advocacy & Resources, and Bay Area Community Resources (BACR). Possible topics include: coping with overwhelming feelings; real-life advocacy for busy families; how do budget cuts affect special education, and more. The group meets Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for six weeks, from April 28 through June 2 at the BACR office, 3219 Pierce St., Richmond (near the Pacific East Mall, off Central Avenue). There's a free information session April 21. The fee is \$40/week (\$240 for 6-week session); a sliding scale is available. Information: 510-558-1222 ext. 3 pr lnplaw@pacbell.net

MEASURE D INFORMATION NIGHT

Community members interested in learning more about the proposed reconstruction at El Cerrito High School are invited to an informational evening on Tuesday, March 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the ECHS Little Theatre. Refreshments will be provided.

MICROWAVE NEEDED: ECHS office staff need a microwave oven. Information: 510-524-8252 or jrader@wc-cusd.k12.ca.us

STATE BUDGET CUTS: Explore this critical issue with School District Superintendent Michael DeSa, Walnut Creek School District; Dr. Gloria Johnson, West Contra Costa Unified School District; Robert Kessler, San Ramon Valley schools and Gary

McHenry, Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

The meeting will be held Monday, March 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Contra Costa County Office of Education, 77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill.

Information: Susan Wood at 925-939-7060; or FourFlyingWoods@cs-cs.com
CASINO NIGHT: El Cerrito High School's 12th Annual Casino Night will be held Friday, March 28, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane, El Cerrito. Tickets are available at the door or call 510-525-3272. To donate prizes, become a sponsor or purchase tickets call 510-525-3272. Tickets are \$25 or \$40 for two; reserve in advance or purchase at the door.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at toppin@earthlink.net
March 21 and 22, 8 p.m., Theater Ensemble presents "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring, AHS Little Theater. Tickets \$10/adults, \$5/students and seniors
March 23, 5 p.m., Theater Ensemble (same play)
April 3, Instructional Improvement Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Room
Scrip Orders: Edna Shipley at 510-527-0745, e-mail: Ednaming@aol.com or Karen Moss at 510-526-2018, e-mail: karenmoss@sbcglobal.net 510-526-2018

Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Nancy Nelson at nannnelson@aol.com
April 3, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library
Scrip Orders: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothy-cmc@yahoo.com Reminder: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Cornell Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradayer@aol.com
Scrip Orders: Call Mark Priven 510-528-2082 or e-mail: privest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at

marinetree@aol.com

Scrip Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail: h.class@att.net
Paper Scrip for sale in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Reminder: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Ocean View Elementary School

March 27, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library
Scrip Orders: Call Kim Denton at 510-528-6480

RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library.

AUSD Board of Education

March 25, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

March 21, Staff Development Day, No School

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GROWTH PROJECTIONS

The Association of Bay Area Governments has released its draft 2003 projections of how and where the region will grow in the next 30 years.

EMPLOYED RESIDENTS

County	2000	2030	Gain	% gain	Rank
Solano	179,517	305,500	125,983	70.2	1
Alameda	697,882	1,063,200	365,318	52.3	2
Contra Costa	483,898	704,740	220,842	45.6	3
Santa Clara	959,071	1,313,400	354,329	36.9	4
Sonoma	229,307	309,100	79,793	34.8	5
Napa	67,111	83,000	15,889	23.7	6
San Francisco	444,851	547,500	102,649	23.1	7
San Mateo	403,083	490,700	87,617	21.7	8
Marin	140,955	166,100	25,145	17.8	9
Bay Area	3,605,675	4,983,240	1,377,565	38.2	

JOBS

County	2000	2030	Gain	% gain	Rank
Solano	123,210	204,680	81,470	66.1	1
Sonoma	205,220	321,020	115,800	56.4	2
Contra Costa	361,110	536,410	175,300	48.5	3
Alameda	751,680	1,087,370	335,690	44.7	4
Marin	122,960	167,390	44,430	36.1	5
Santa Clara	1,092,330	1,481,670	389,340	35.6	6
Napa	66,840	88,990	22,150	33.1	7
San Mateo	395,890	526,600	130,710	33.0	8
San Francisco	634,430	815,680	181,250	28.6	9
Bay Area	3,753,670	5,229,810	1,476,140	39.3	

Source: Association of Bay Area Governments

2 million more people in 2030

■ Forecast spurs renewed call for dense development near public transit hubs

By Lisa Vorderbruggen
STAFF WRITER

The Bay Area will add people, jobs and houses at a modest clip during the next three decades, according to new projections.

The Association of Bay Area Governments' biennial estimates show a region in 2030 with 2 million more people, nearly as many added jobs and three-quarters of a million new households.

That's enough homes to build two San Franciscos and more than enough people to triple Contra Costa County's current population.

Solano County will lead the region in percentage growth in all major categories including population, jobs, employed residents and household gains, followed closely by Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa.

Rio Vista, Dublin, Dixon, San Ramon and Brentwood post the highest percentage population growth among East Bay cities. Tiny Rio Vista in Solano County quadruples.

The projections likely will rekindle the Bay Area's recurring growth debate.

For the first time since ABAG began publishing estimates 30 years ago, it now seeks to alter rather than merely predict the future.

Past projections illustrated where and how growth would likely occur based solely on trends. Historically, the Bay Area added jobs at a much higher rate than housing, forcing workers into long commutes from Central Valley areas.

The 2003 projections incorporate smart-growth policies that seek to rectify the region's persistent housing deficit, freeway gridlock and skyrocketing home prices. Smart growth shuns sprawl on the urban fringe in favor of denser home, shopping and office development in city centers near public transit.

"We began to clearly see several years ago that the trend of continuing to add jobs without an adequate housing supply was not sustainable," ABAG executive director Eugene Leong said. "We must begin to close the gap."

The shift resulted in a 5,000 to 7,500 annual increase in housing production in the 2003 projections over prior estimates, Leong said.

Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties each see increased housing, while other counties show slight declines.

The ABAG executive board is expected to approve the projec-

tions Thursday night.

The question is whether predicting more houses produces more. The projections have no legal weight nor do they supplant local control over land-use. ABAG prepares them for planning purposes.

The Bay Area Council, a powerful business group, contends that the enhanced household predictions fall far short of the need.

It sends the wrong message to lawmakers and local leaders about the housing crisis, said Andrew Michael, the council's vice president for sustainable development.

The council points to the Regional Livability Footprint Project, a smart-growth initiative that calls for the region to provide housing for all workers within the nine-county Bay Area to end reliance on long commutes.

"How can we convince our legislators to commit resources and provide housing incentives if our projections don't match the need?" Michael asked.

On the other hand, perhaps the Bay Area does not need every one of those jobs, countered Contra Costa County Supervisor and ABAG executive board member John Gioia.

The region may want to consider shifting some jobs to the housing rich Central Valley, he said. "I'd like to take a closer look at what jobs would be appropriately directed to the areas that already have housing," he said.

ABAG admits the projections would house only half the expected workers. To have gone further would have risked losing credibility, Leong said.

As it is, the projections assume a \$350 million annual public investment in housing starting in 2009, as well as dramatic changes in state law.

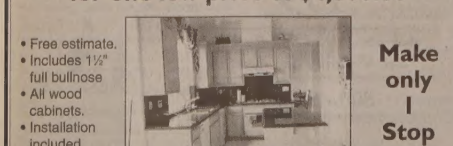
Patience, urged ABAG president and Walnut Creek Mayor Gwen Regalia. If the projections become too ambitious, cities and counties will disregard them, she said.

"Over time, more communities will change their general plans and we'll start to see a shift," Regalia said. "It's like dieting. You can't lose all the weight in the first week. It takes time."

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COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FACULTY, joined by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, at right in suit, demonstrated against the Legislature's decision to cut funding to the community college system. The cutbacks have resulted in layoffs and the elimination of classes.

Community college cuts protest

■ Thousands angry at the \$161 million in reductions marched from downtown Sacramento to the Capitol

By Andrew LaMar
and Carrie Sturrock
STAFF WRITERS

SACRAMENTO — More than 5,000 students, faculty and advocates from community colleges across California descended on the state Capitol on Monday to protest funding cuts and fee increases.

They marched through downtown and gathered on the west steps of the Capitol to cheer calls for lawmakers to renege on Gov. Gray Davis' plans to slash community college funding by \$404 million next year.

The \$161 million in midyear reductions to community colleges passed by the Legislature last week has already sent waves of cost-cutting rippling through the system. Colleges have begun laying off instructors, shutting down programs and eliminating classes.

Davis proposes boosting class fees from \$11 to \$24 a unit. That would be a major problem for Maria Garcia, 20, of Oakland. Garcia, who works as a checker at Albertson's part-time to pay for her studies, said she would be forced to take a year off from the College of Alameda to save money, even though she is only 16 credits shy of finishing her program.

"There's no way that I could pay for school and my cost of living," Garcia said. "It would be way too expensive."

Protesters held banners and chanted "No more cuts." Some wore T-shirts that said "access denied," and others held signs that read "Dump Davis not students" and "Don't close the door on 2.9 million students please."

Assemblyman Bob Pacheco, a Republican from the Los Angeles area who has advocated loudly for community colleges, said the rally sent a clear message to lawmakers.

"These folks are going to get

up and vote against each and every one of you if you make these cuts," Pacheco said. "This is the largest rally I've ever seen at the Capitol."

Nicola Place, 44, hopes lawmakers change course. She is the transfer center coordinator at Diablo Valley College. Unless cuts are reversed, her position will be terminated June 30. She said budget reductions should be spread more evenly among all publicly funded education.

"If you're going to do it, let's make it fair," Place said. "I think that's our biggest concern."

Students and faculty from all three colleges in the Contra Costa Community College District traveled to Sacramento for the rally. Faculty from Contra Costa Community College in San Pablo, an economically depressed area, donated \$950 so students could afford the train to the state capital.

District officials estimate midyear cuts approved last week will total \$6.2 million out of the college's \$115 million operating budget. The district would lose another \$15 million if lawmakers enact the governor's proposals, said John Hendrickson, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

Already this year, Contra Costa College has cut 150 course sections, or 14 percent of what it offers. As a result, the number of students enrolled in some courses has nearly doubled, said Tim Clow, senior dean of planning and research.

Los Medanos College in Pittsburg has cut 60 course sections this spring and expects to discontinue another 200 sections next academic year. The college also plans to reduce summer services for high school students seeking to catch up or get a head start on college, said Daniel Henry, interim vice president at Los Medanos.

Diablo Valley College has eliminated 75 classes this spring and plans to drop another 215 this summer and fall.



MONDAY'S RALLY attracted students from around the region to oppose cuts in classes and an increase in per unit fees.

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OBITUARIES AND FUNERAL LISTINGS

Hultgren, Teresa Wood- Friends are invited to a memorial service from 3:00 to 5:00 on Saturday afternoon, March 22, at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar at Bonita in Berkeley. Teresa passed away on January 25, 2003. 510-848-8767



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Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

Shattuck Ave., present Sol-Fi author Walter Hunt at 3:30 p.m. March 22, discussing his book "Dark Path," a fast-paced space opera story. For more information, call 510-644-0861.

■ **"Words not Wars,"** the Arts of Diplomacy and Dissent with poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Rita Maran, Allen Cohen, Adam David Miller takes place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. March 25, at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists' Hall, 1924 Cedar St. The evening includes concert and conversation and live original music with piano Nicole Miller Cello Gael Alcock, and voice Phoebe Anne. Tickets: \$10 to \$15 sliding scale. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call 510-841-4824.

■ **Storytelling for Adults,** a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. For more information, call 510-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings/Lectures

Miscellany

■ **The Bay Area-wide 18th annual Jewish Music Festival** takes place at 8 p.m. from March 22 to 29, at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way (at Dana). The event opens with Sholomo Bar and Habera Hatveet, a pioneering world music ensemble from Israel. Advance tickets range from \$22 to \$24. The festival is a project of the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. For tickets and information, call 925-866-9559 or visit the Web site www.brjcc.org.

■ **The North Grace Institute First Berkeley International Festival** takes place from noon to 6 p.m. March 23, at 2138 Cedar St. Attendees will have an opportunity to taste food, as well as enjoy music and dances from different parts of the world. The public is encouraged to participate in the singing and dancing and by dressing with native costumes. The opening ceremony will start at noon. For more information, e-mail baylaw1@yahoo.com or visit the Web site www.GraceNorthChurch.org, or call Manuel Juarez, chairman at 510-848-4639.

■ **Ecology Center** sponsors Berkeley Farmers' Market, at Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday March 25. The market offers a wide range of mostly organic produce and healthy, locally-produced foods. For more information, call 510-548-3333 or visit the Web site at www.ecologycenter.org.

■ **Friendship Circle,** a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

■ **Improve your speaking skills** by attending Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vaul's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **The YWCA** offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2800 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar** Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **Berkeley Toastmasters Club** meet monthly, the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication

and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Lard at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ **The YWCA** offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For details call 848-6370.

■ **Speak Smart!** Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters Meeting:** Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

■ **Joy of Yiddish:** Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

■ **The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club** meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

■ **The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium, Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

■ **Public speaking** skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., call 869-2547 for details.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

■ **State Health Toastmasters Club** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health Building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment;** 7 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way; Berkeley; 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous,** a 12-step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

■ **TOPS;** 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannard St. Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6588.

■ **Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center** and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium on Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Music

■ **Berkeley Chamber Performances,** celebrates 20 years of excellence in classical and contemporary concerts with the appearance of Chiaroscuro at 8 p.m. March 25, at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 students and seniors are available by mail and at the door from 7:15 p.m. For directions or information on dining at the club before performances, call 510-848-7800. For more information, call 510-848-7800.

■ **The Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble and Combos** presents its spring concert at 7:30 p.m. March 28, in the Florence Schwimley Little Theater, 1920 Alston Way, Berkeley. Tickets are available only at the door. Price: \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors, BHS staff and students. The box office opens at 7 p.m. The 24-member band performed last fall at the Monterey Jazz Festival to a standing ovation. Proceeds from this concert will be used to provide for the on-going expenses of the band. For more information, visit the Web site at www.berkeleyhighjazz.org.

■ **The Arlington Community Church Choir,** 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington, is preparing the Durfee Requiem for its Good Friday service. The work, through contemporary, has the flavor of Gregorian chant. Community singers are wel-

come and invited to join in preparation and performance. Rehearsals are from 8:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings. Music is available. If you have questions, call the church office at 510-526-9146.

■ **Duckan Diletones,** featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson LA, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

■ **Ashkenaz,** 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 584-1400 for additional information.

■ **Friday Night Folk Dancing:** 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YWCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

■ **The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden,** 200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon, offers a free sick plant clinic on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose. Details: 643-2755.

■ **Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds:** house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 655-3911.

■ **Turning Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

■ **East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park,** presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Performance

■ **The East Bay Dance Festival** takes place at 7 p.m. March 28, 29 and 30, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. The festival showcases a wonderfully diverse mix of the best contemporary dance including Mark Foehringher Dance Project, Savage Jazz Dance Company, Janice Garrett & Dancers, Pautie Dance, Danny Nguyen Dancers and Musicians, Navarette's Works, Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble and Fellow Traveller's Performance Group. Tickets: Adults \$14, Children, students seniors \$12. For more information, visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org or call 925-798-1300.

■ **Albany High School Theater Ensemble** presents Joseph Kesselring's play "Arsenic and Old Lace," at 8 p.m. March 21 and 22 and 5 p.m. March 23. The play takes place at the Albany High School Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd. Tickets—\$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors—are available at the door, or in advance through the box office. For more information, call 510-558-2500, ext. 2579.

■ **The third annual Women in Salsa Celebration** takes place at 9 p.m. March 28, at LaPena Cultural Center. The event features live music female musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area. The lineup includes La Familia; Cha Cha Boom; Mujeres in Motion; and Orquesta D'Soul. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 510-849-2568 or visit www.laena.org.

■ **Many Rivers Theater Project** presents "The Game of Sides," written and directed by Terry Lamb, at three Saturday performances, 3 p.m. March 22. Snacks and drinks will accompany the after play discussion; donations will be accepted at the door. Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship at Cedar and Bonita streets, in the Connie Barbour Room. For more information and reservations, call 510-524-6950.

■ **Shotgun Players** continues its play "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles, through March 30, at Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St. Prices: \$10 Thursdays, \$12 for students, seniors/TBA, \$18 regular. For more information, call 510-704-8210 or visit the Web site at www.shotgun-players.org.

■ **Wilde Irish Productions** presents "The Importance of Being Oscar," through March 23, at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. This is a theatri-

cal journey through the life of Oscar Wilde as explored through his writings. Tickets: \$8-20 sliding scale. For more information, call 510-841-7287. For reservations all 510-558-1381. Dinner is available in the City Club Dining Room before the show on Thursdays and Saturdays. For dinner reservations, call 510-848-7800.

■ **Learn easy international folk dances,** fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2 and \$1 for kids. Details: 525-1130.

■ **Family Folkdancing** takes place on the third Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ **Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2568 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Support

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter** holds its next monthly Family Support Group from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the Claremont Branch Berkeley Library at the southwest corner of Ashby and Benvenue, one block west of College Avenue. Support meetings are free and offer family members a chance to talk with others who have a mentally ill relative. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524-1250.

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter** sponsors a support group to provide information and support to families of children and adolescents with mental illness. The next meeting is from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 18, at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannard St., in Albany. Support meetings are free and offer parent and other family members a chance to talk with others in order to share information and get emotional support. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524-1250.

■ **Women's Cancer Resource Center** offers Support Groups throughout the Bay area. If you are interested in attending a group, call the Helpline at 510-420-7900 during the Center's open hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 12 to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays.

■ **Bereavement Support Group** meets Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m. at Jewish Family and Children's Services in Walnut Creek. Topics include dealing with loneliness, isolation, anger and other unexpected emotions; changing family dynamics; and re-establishing connections with your community. Receive support in a warm, Jewish context. No charge (donations accepted). Pre-registration required. Call Marti Kutnik LCSW at 925-927-2000 ext. 740. This group is jointly sponsored by Sinai Memorial Chapel and Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay.

■ **Fibromyalgia Support Group,** sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation, holds a rap session from 12 noon - 2 p.m. Feb. 18, at Alta Bates Medical Center-Herrick Campus at 2001 Dwight Way in Berkeley. Sufferers of Fibromyalgia and related conditions, their families and friends are encouraged to attend. For more details call Deborah at 510-644-3273 or for directions only call Barbara Ridley at 510-204-4503.

■ **The Sacred Voice,** a cancer support group, led by Shira Stone MFT, uses the tones in the voice to induce states that are beyond words. Participants join voices with others to bring harmony and balance the body, quietness to the mind, integration of feelings, and an experience of connection to the Source of all healing. This free group meets weekly from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at 2951 Derby, Redwood Gardens, in Berkeley. Pre-register with Shira at 510-843-1677.

■ **Arthritis Foundation,** Northern California Chapter Fibromyalgia Support Group meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 12 to 2 p.m. at Alta Bates Media Center, Maffei Auditorium-Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. The next meeting is Nov. 19. Topic: "How to Improve Your Daily Functions," conducted by Alta Bates Staff. There is no meeting in December.

Opening Day parade to close part of

The westbound lane of Solano Avenue and the southbound lane of Jackson Street will be closed to traffic and parking from 11 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 29, to clear the streets for the Albany Little League Opening Day parade.

San Pablo Avenue also will be closed for 20 minutes when the parade crosses it, according to Albany police.

The parade will begin at the Albany/Berkeley border on Solano Avenue and proceed to UC Village and the playing fields there. It will be possible to cross Solano before the parade reaches any given point and after.

The parade honors the boys and girls of Albany Little League and the Albany-Berkeley Girl's Softball League. Young ballplayers and the marching band The Repercussions will be featured. Legendary Cal baseball coach Bob Milano will be the Grand Marshal of the parade.

For more information: 510-525-1771.



BOB MILANO, retired baseball coach (left) with his daughter (right) will be the Grand Marshal of the Albany Little League parade closing the opening day on March 29.

For more information, call Deborah Rich at 510-644-3273. For Directions only, call Barbara Ridley 510-204-4503.

■ **Grandparent Support Group** meets from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the second Thursday every month at the Malcolm X Elementary Arts and Academics School, 1731 Prince St., room 105A Berkeley. Grandparents, relatives can express their concerns and needs and receive support, information, and referrals for kinship care. For information, call Leni Siegal, MX Healthy Start Coordinator, 510-644-6517.

■ **Become a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor.** Building Futures with Women and Children is offering a state-recognized training for those interested in volunteering with battered women and children. Training is located at 1395 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Call 510-357-0205 ext. 110 for more information.

■ **The number of recent tragedies** both locally and across the nation can evoke reactions that can affect us emotionally, physically, in our thoughts and behavior. Alameda County Crisis Support Services offers help through its 24-hour crisis line, grief counseling, education and community debriefing programs. Call 849-2212 for more information.

■ **A free Yoga for Cancer** class meets every Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:45 p.m. at the Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. The classes are open to both current patients and long-term survivors. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

■ **Restorative Yoga** class meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in central Berkeley. Cost: \$10 per class. Easy, luxurious stretches and mindful breathing help to ease tension and discomfort and open the body to relaxation and well-being. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

■ **Adult Survivors of Incest,** a local support group in the East Bay is being formed. The group will gather for healing discussions and also various activities, including hiking, dancing, classic film watching, traveling, or any fun activity. Interested participants, call Attica Peece at 625-1698. Feel free to leave a message.

■ **The pain and grief** associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming — especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation. The grief counseling project is here to help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104.

■ **"The Grief Care Community"** offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

■ **The local self-help group** for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

■ **Alta Bates Medical Center Herick Campus** offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innov-

ative approach to reducing anxiety and creating coping images. Call 204-4503 for information. Call 204-4503 for information.

■ **Alta Bates Medical Center** offers support classes for stroke survivors, families and friends on the second Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m. The class focuses on personal grief reactions. No one refused due to inability to further information, contact.

■ **Alta Bates Medical Center** Dwight Way, offers support classes for stroke survivors, families and friends on the second Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m. The class focuses on personal grief reactions. No one refused due to inability to further information, contact.

■ **The Comprehensive and Breast Cancer Support Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m. The class focuses on personal grief reactions. No one refused due to inability to further information, contact.

■ **The Lupus Foundation** California is still accepting for its Youth Pilot Program. Currently underway at Lakeside Hospital at Lakeside. Children's Hospital at Lakeside. There is an admission admission registration fee. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

■ **The City of Berkeley** program desperately needs 15 meals to be delivered to four to five homes. Call 849-2212 for more information.

■ **The North Berkeley** also seeking volunteers for gift shop, coffee bar and three to four hours, one day. Call 644-6107.

■ **Volunteer with the Women's Resource Center.** Help with cancer, their families, and their friends. Call 849-2212 for more information.

■ **The Sierra Club** Bay Area Chapter is in need of oriented volunteers to assist guests, respond to inquiries, provide general office assistance, and assist with the four-hour shift on the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 171 Training and on-going projects. Additional volunteer opportunities are available. Call 849-2212 for more information.

■ **More than 2,500 Bay Area** nities with 950 Bay Area nities are available. Organizations are available. Contact: Center of Alameda County. Call 849-2212 for more information.

■ **The Volunteer Center**

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Saturday, March 22 at 3 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Christopher Hobbs, L.Ac., A.H.G.

Herb Safety

An overview of the safety and potential drug interactions of commonly used herbs. Mr. Hobbs is an herbalist/botanist with over 30 years experience.

Saturday, March 22 at 5 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Burton Goldberg, author of "Alternative Medicine: A Definitive Guide"

Presentation and Book Signing

The revised edition of this 1,200-page bible of alternative medicine includes sections on longevity medicine, natural hormone therapy, vaccinations, and fibromyalgia.

Sunday, March 23 at 5 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Peter Van Arsdale, L.Ac.

Sports Injuries and Traditional Chinese Medicine

Director and founder of Berkeley's East Bay Center for Health, Mr. Arsdale has practiced Traditional Chinese Medicine for 16 years.

Sunday, March 23 at 2 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Matthew and Terces Englehart

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Monday, March 24 at 2 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Jackie Sohn, M.S.T.C.M.

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Learn how the tongue's appearance can indicate the health of internal organs. Ms. Sohn, an herbalist at Elephant, received her Master's in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

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Local protests grew as Iraq war neared

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Student walk-outs and vigils protesting the war in Iraq showed increasing concern in the weeks and days before the first missiles hit Baghdad on Wednesday night.

Hundreds of students have walked out of El Cerrito and Albany high schools, and hundreds turned out for a candlelight vigil in Albany on Sunday night.

Between 200 and 300 people — including families, teen-agers and senior citizens — gathered at Memorial Park in Albany on Sunday for the vigil, which lasted just over an hour. It was just one of more than 6,000 vigils organized that night worldwide by Win Without War. Smaller events were held in Kensington and El Cerrito.

Holding candles protected by paper cups, many at Memorial Park stood in silence while others stood together and spontaneously sang songs, read poetry or talked about their anger or sadness over the impending war, which began Wednesday.

One woman spoke of "praying for miracles" to stop the war; others talked about getting organized by writing letters or taking to the streets of San Francisco when the bombs began to drop. They said students should

be encouraged to stage walk-outs, as they did at Albany Middle School.

"I'm proud to be part of this community," said one man. "I feel like I'm surrounded by true patriots."

One woman said people should call on their senators to bring articles of impeachment for the president, and several in the crowd responded with an enthusiastic "yes."

"Our leaders do not represent us and that should be made known," the woman said.

Berkeley resident Farideh Sedigi said the decision to go to war was made a long time ago and saw hypocrisy in the media for focusing on Iraq while torture and killings were happening in Iran. ("The government is) going for oil, not the freedom of the Iraqi people," Sedigi said after the vigil.

Nora Barrows-Friedman organized the Albany vigil in just a few days after learning about the effort from the anti-war group moveon.org. She also helped start a peace e-mail group, which can be subscribed to by e-mailing join-berkeley-albany-action@clio.lyris.net.

There will also be brief, nightly vigils at Peralta and Solano avenues starting at 7:30 p.m. Barrows-Friedman, a 24-

year-old Albany resident, also organized a "marching band for peace" using found instruments. The band was scheduled to go up Solano and down Marin avenues the night after the attack began.

The Sunday vigil, she said, "may not change the course of the way things are going but may bring neighborhoods closer together which is a pretty good step."

In addition to the Sunday vigil, there were student walk-outs at Albany and El Cerrito high schools.

Between 300 and 400 students left Albany High School around 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, and walked to UC Berkeley to protest. There were speeches and loud disruptions of the university classes, said senior Ana Ramirez.

Albany High students were back in class by noon. Another walkout was scheduled for noon Thursday.

Ramirez said she didn't want the country to go to war to control Iraqi oil, especially when the billions of dollars needed for the attack could be better spent on schools, many of which, including those in the West Contra Costa and Albany Unified school districts, are undergoing budget cuts.

Another student walk-out was

held at El Cerrito High School on Friday, March 7, said principal Vince Rhea. About 30 or 40 students began the walkout and were joined by about 100 other students, who simply took advantage of the situation to leave class, Rhea said.

They walked out at 10 a.m. and most were back about an hour and 15 minutes later.

The Iraqi invasion, combined with school budget cuts, have made students anxious, Rhea said. As a result, an open mike has been set up during lunch time for students to sound off on the war. Teachers have been encouraged to devote some class time to war discussions if appropriate and are discussing the issues with students during lunch.

Rhea said he would rather have students expressing their views on campus than taking to the streets, which is unsafe and could create a disturbance.

"The biggest thing, of course, is we don't want to create apathetic kids," he said. "I think it's really important kids have opinions and are able to express them."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.



SHARYL GATES touches up the lettering on the mural designed and worked with neighborhood children in Park on March 19.

Mural

FROM PAGE A1

She spent 10 years as a singer, dancer and set and mural painter with the southern and northern California Renaissance Faires. She quit that job in 1984 to do set design and teach at the California College of Arts and Crafts. Over the years she's also done illustrations for magazines and newspapers and has shown her work in exhibitions.

"I've done so many things it's hard to keep track of them all," Gates said, attempting to recall some of her past work.

Currently, Gates teaches art at Harding Elementary School, does face-painting for events, is working on a second album of Latin jazz music with her husband, Jack, and has two gallery

exhibitions.

One is a collection of scenes in watercolor at the Albany Library. The other is a collection of life, portraits, more, at M. Lowe Shattuck Ave. in San Francisco. It will be open through the summer.

With all of this, she still makes time to do a mural at Creekside Park on weekends, making just a little more for the neighborhood children.

"If I move away there'll be some time will live in the neighborhood something happen make it look nice," she said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Censure

FROM PAGE A1

se-Americans during World War II.

Friedman added that while the city alone has no effect on national policy, the resolution helps to build a groundswell of opposition, which can make a difference in the long run.

"It's part of an overall critical mass," Friedman said.

The resolution marks the second time in as many months that the El Cerrito council has voiced its opinion on national policy. In February, the council passed a resolution by a 3-0 vote stating its opposition against a unilateral invasion of Iraq.

Potter said the Patriot Act and

the invasion in Iraq can trickle down to affect El Cerrito residents. The billions of dollars spent on the Iraq invasion could leave less for city services such as the fire department, she said.

Similar resolutions on national and foreign policy have been passed all over the state and country and may be particularly welcome in El Cerrito, where a majority of residents are registered Democrats.

Many residents in the city have been marching against the war and are against abridging freedoms to fight terrorism, Friedman said.

"There's a lot of anxiety and concern and feeling that the Bush administration, which many of us don't feel was fairly elected, is taking the country in the wrong di-

rection, both foreign and domestically," he said.

The council passed the resolution opposing the Patriot Act Monday night by a 3-0 vote. Councilwoman Gina Brusatori and Mayor Pro Tem Letitia Moore were absent. Eight people spoke in favor of passing the resolution and no one spoke against it, said the city clerk, Linda Giddings.

According to the resolution, the anti-terrorism act, among other things, significantly expands the government's ability to access sensitive medical, mental health, financial and educational records about individuals; lowers the burden of proof required to conduct secret searches and telephone and Internet surveillance; expands law enforcement's authority to obtain library records and prohibits li-

brarians from informing patrons of monitoring or information requests; authorizes eavesdropping of communications between lawyers and their clients in federal custody; and encourages racial profiling.

Based on a similar resolution passed recently in Richmond, the resolution says the council "affirms its strong opposition to terrorism but also affirms that any efforts to end terrorism not be waged at the expense of fundamental civil rights and liberties of the people of El Cerrito and the United States."

The resolution goes onto state that whenever possible, no city employee or department shall cooperate with investigations, interrogations or arrest procedures that are in violation of a person's civil rights.

Pavement

FROM PAGE A1

and the city has little money from sales or property taxes to pay for improvements. Street improvements will be paid for through Measure F, a \$14.5 million bond measure approved last November by Albany voters.

Councilman Robert Good said Albany streets overall aren't as bad as those in other cities, such as Berkeley, but that they could use improvement.

"It's desirable that our streets be in good shape," said Good. "It's not a life-or-death matter, not an exceedingly high priority, just desirable."

The city has had its eye on

street and other infrastructure improvements for six years, said Vice Mayor Jon Ely and has paid for emergency repairs for potholes or repaired streets in conjunction with sewer improvement projects.

The city hired Nichols Engineering Consultants to determine what kind of repair work was needed for the city. The council likely will approve a three- to five-year pavement management plan in the fall based on that study.

In the meantime, the council at its March 17 meeting unanimously approved some early repair work to be done this summer. The work will be done on streets that are bad, but not that bad, Ely said. Streets that don't need a lot of repair work are

fixed early, so major, more expensive repairs don't have to be done in the future.

The council, Ely added, needs to pick and choose what streets can be repaired. Even with the bond measure, there's not enough money to cover the recommended \$7.1 million in repairs that need to be done. "It's a preventive maintenance program, and over time it'll be a program in the future we'll find funding for," Ely said.

Considered in very poor condition and in line to receive the asphalt overlay this summer will be: Pierce Street, beginning south of the city limit to Calhoun Street; the 800 block of Pomona Avenue; and Telvin Street south of Francis Street.

The streets receiving a Slurry

Seal treatment are sections of Portland, Santa Fe and Peralta avenues; Curtis, Neilsen, Ordway, Adams, Dartmouth and Polk streets; Kains, Stannage, Carmel, Evelyn, Cornell and San Carlos avenues; and Thousand Oaks Boulevard. The work should be done between mid-August and mid-September.

Though the work has been estimated at \$500,000, the costs could vary depending on two variables, said City Administrator Beth Pollard: Which contractor the council decides will do the work and how smoothly the projects go. "These are estimates because we will go out to bid and get actual prices, but those are the cost estimates at this time," Pollard said.

Police

FROM PAGE A2

three juveniles "tagging" the back of Albany High School at about 6:30 p.m. They were gone when officers arrived.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Officers located a white '97 Honda Civic at 555 Pierce St. that had been stolen from El Cerrito on March 12. The vehicle had been partially stripped and the steering column was damaged. The car was towed and the owner notified.

Sunday, March 16

■ **DUI** — At about 2 a.m. Officers arrested a 37-year-old Richmond man driving a gray '00 Dodge on San Pablo Avenue near Central Avenue for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ **SHOT FIRED** — At about 3:30 a.m. a resident on the 800 block of Kains Avenue reported that someone had fired a shot from an upstairs apartment and now he had a 2-inch hole in his ceiling.

ing. Officers arrested a 23-year-old Albany man for possession of drugs and shooting in an occupied dwelling. He was cited and released.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A resident on the 700 block of Stannage Avenue reported that at about 9 a.m. thieves had stolen his silver Toyota Camry. Richmond police located the vehicle at about 3 a.m. on March 17. The vehicle was damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — During the night thieves broke into a black '98 Honda Accord parked on the 1000 block of Ventura Avenue. Thieves also stole a brown '81 Toyota Corona parked on the 400 block of Talbot Avenue. There were no witnesses in either incident.

Monday, March 17

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Thieves stole a gray '89 Toyota Corolla from the 900 block of Fillmore Street at about 2:45 a.m. The owner reported last seeing

the vehicle as it was heading toward Buchanan Street. It was gone when officers arrived.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-INS** — During the night thieves broke into an '88 Honda Prelude parked on the 1400 block of Posen Street. They stole the in-dash stereo and items from the trunk before departing unseen. Thieves also broke into a red '95 Honda Civic parked on the 500 block of Talbot Avenue.

Summary

During the week of March 10 officers

towed seven cars, responded to 16 false alarms, attended to three lost or deceased animals, assisted two people who were locked out of their car or house, and responded to one report of a barking dog. In the domestic arena, officers responded to three stand-bys, 21 civil disturbances and 135 civil arrests. Officers stopped 115 vehicles or persons issuing 77 citations and 98 warnings. Albany firefighter/paramedics responded to three medical emergencies.

— K. Osborn

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Real Estate & Home

Supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

Friday, March 21, 2003

Section B

Books, classes teach architectural styles

Two of three parts of a weekly column, I discuss the best books and classes about the various architectural styles in the Bay Area. This week, I will examine some of the most interesting and beautiful general historic architecture throughout the region.

A quick overview of all the styles of historic architecture found in the U.S., you will find in "What Style Is It?" by Allen Chambers, et al. This slender paperback book, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has photos and a short history of each style, from Colonial to Modern.

The American Heritage Press has published what is probably the most comprehensive two-volume set on historic architecture in the U.S., "Architecture in America" by Kidder Smith. These hard-bound volumes cover the most important styles of architecture, from elegant black-and-white to a well-written narrative.

The two-volume set about historic architecture is written by William H. Miller, published in 1976. These volumes are not just as thorough as the American Heritage set, but also some good research, documentation and photos of historic buildings in the States. One of the first was "America's Historic Homes and Restorations," published in 1966. This is a well-illustrated survey of important historic homes

that had been restored and opened to the public by that time.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation published "All About Old Buildings: The Whole Preservation Catalog," 1985. This richly illustrated quality paperback volume was written by Dianne Madex. It gives a thorough description of the various techniques that communities and preservation groups can utilize to save and restore historic buildings.

Two other books about the lesser-known aspects of American vernacular (or non-architect-designed) architecture were also published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"America's Architectural Roots," by Upton Dell, et al., 1986, covers the origins of the styles that Americans imported from Europe, Latin America and Asia.

"America's Forgotten Architecture," by Tony Wren and Elizabeth Mulloy, 1976, gives readers a nicely illustrated survey of unusual and charming vernacular architecture, from Pioneer Era cottages to early gas stations.



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

My favorite work about historic buildings in America is "Lost America," by Constance Grief, a hard-bound two-volume set, which is an impressively illustrated survey of the most important historic buildings that have been demolished.

Perhaps the best-written commentaries on historic buildings in the United States that are required reading for most students of architecture were published several decades ago. The first is "Sticks and Stones: A Study of

See WILSON, Page B2

Classes start this month

Writer and architectural historian Mark Wilson will be offering an architecture class, "Historic Homes of the East Bay," at both the Piedmont and Albany adult schools. This course will cover the major styles of historic buildings in the East Bay with slides and handouts.

In the course, Wilson will discuss Spanish adobes, Victorian-era homes, Craftsman bungalows, mansions by Julia Morgan and Bernard Maybeck, Art Deco movie palaces and other styles.

A walking tour of a historic East Bay neighborhood is included.

The Piedmont class is Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m., beginning March 27. It will be in room 401 at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia St.; the fee is \$65. Call 510-594-2655 to pre-enroll.

The Albany class will be Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m., beginning March 24. It will be held in room 11 at 601 San Gabriel Ave.; the fee is \$60. Call 510-559-6580 to pre-enroll.

Real Estate Spotlight:

New villa in Oakland has Tuscan feel



NESTLED INTO THE HILLSIDE on the downslope of Oakland's Skyline Boulevard near Broadway Terrace, construction of a 5,400-square-foot Mediterranean-style villa is nearly finished. This home has a barrel ceiling, tile roof, old world cobblestone driveway and plastered walls plus four bedrooms and five baths and a three-car garage. Most rooms have views from Marin to the Peninsula. Wooden French doors open to stone terraces and a spacious private courtyard. A level area could be developed into play space or even a pool. Mature olive trees and a rock garden line the driveway.

An elevator provides access to both living levels. Towering arched iron doors capture the views of the bay. Cabinets and doors are alder; flooring is maple. Bathrooms have heated stone floors.

The upper level includes a large family room with fireplace and kitchen, both with soaring ceilings and expansive windows. This level also includes a large media room, set up for a large retractable screen and surround sound. The formal living room, dining room and reception area with square lighted turret provide a wonderful flow for entertaining. The lower level has three bedrooms and three baths. The master suite has a huge walk-in closet, a sitting room with bar, a see-through fireplace that serves both the bedroom and bathroom, spa tub and oversized European style spa shower.

Price: \$2,498,000. Designed by Horowitz Architecture, built by Steve Jaca. Agent: Debra Dryden at The Grubb Co., 510-339-0400, ext. 208 or dryden@grubbco.com.

When moving, don't forget your kids

■ Help them adjust if you take up roots in the middle of the school year

BY MICHELE DAWSON
ALAMEDAREALESTATE.COM

Going through the arduous process of buying a house may leave you with all the stress you can handle. But don't forget your kids. The thought of a new house usually brings pangs of anxiety as they

think about being the "new kid" - especially if you're moving in the middle of the school year.

Rest assured, yours isn't the only family to go through this experience. The U.S. Census Bureau says that some 43 million Americans moved during a one-year period tracked from March 1999 to March 2000.

While some 56 percent of those families stayed within the same county, that doesn't always spare

the kids from having to move to a new school.

And with the real estate market continuing to stay steady into the first months of 2003, there are guaranteed to be many more "new kids" roaming the halls of schools across the country in search of their new class assignments.

The confusion and disorder associated with moving, packing,

See KIDS, Page B3



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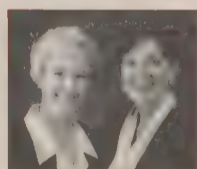
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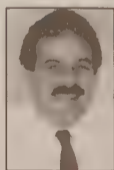
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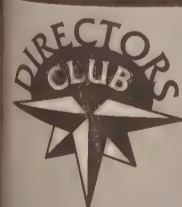
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Instant office

CAN YOU SPARE A FEW FEET ON ONE SIDE OF A ROOM? Then you can have a room makeover that provides a study or home office. This laminate countertop rests on a center base cabinet, creating twin work stations. Upper cabinets have bookshelves and a pull-down cabinet face that can hide messy supplies or keep bills out of sight. A graceful arch connects the upper cabinets and completes the built-in look of these simple cabinet components to create an attractive, functional home office.

Roof coating just prolongs inevitable

BY GENE AUSTIN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q My roof has asphalt shingles that are about 25 years old. A roofer has told me that I need new shingles and that the old ones should be removed. Can I get a few more years out of them, possibly by applying a roof coating?

A If you are satisfied with the appearance of the shingles and the roof is not leaking, you can probably get a few more years of use without going to the expense of applying a coating. If the roof is leaking, I wouldn't depend on a coating to stop the leaks. At any rate,

25 years is a good life span for asphalt shingles, and you should begin thinking seriously about replacing them. You should also be vigilant for leaks by going into the attic and examining the roof decking occasionally. Discoloration of the wood is a sign that water is coming through the shingles. Some of the other signs of badly deteriorated asphalt shingles are curled or broken edges, variations in color on different parts of the roof (caused by loss of the granules that coat shingles), and thick deposits of granules in rain gutters.

Q The drawers in some of our bedroom furniture are stuck.

We think the cause is excessive dampness in our basement, resulting from heavy rains. How can we get the drawers open again?

A Drawers can stick or jam for a number of reasons, and wood swollen from dampness or high humidity is one of them. Other common causes of jamming are overfilling, and sagging or settling of the furniture. Sagging can cause the furniture to go out of square, changing the shape of the drawer opening. If dampness is suspected as the cause, running a dehumidifier to remove moisture from the air in the room is a good first step, but it might take weeks to dry out the furniture enough to get the drawers open.

Don't attempt to open a jammed drawer by jerking on the handles. The front of the drawer might be loosened or even pulled off. If a drawer above a jammed drawer can

be opened, pull it out to make sure overfilling is not the cause of the jam-up. If not, remove the contents of the jammed drawer anyway to expedite drying. Many jammed drawers can be opened at least a few inches, which permits some of the contents to be removed. If a drawer can be opened partially, grip it by the sides and attempt to work it out of its opening.

Another remedy is to put a dinner plate in a partially opened drawer and place a utility light with a 40-watt bulb on the plate. (Make sure the drawer is empty.) The bulb will generate enough heat to dry out the drawer, sometimes in a few hours.

Check the drawer frequently, although there is little danger of fire because of the bulb's moderate

See MAINTENANCE, Page B3

Wilson

FROM PAGE B1

American Architecture and Civilization," by Lewis Mumford, 1955, is a lightly illustrated but beautifully written set of essays by America's most famous architectural historian.

The second book: "Architecture, Ambition, and Americans: A Social History of American Architecture," was written by Wayne Andrews in 1964. It remains one of the best critiques of the cultural and financial inspirations for American architecture ever published.

My favorite work about historic buildings in America is "Lost America," by Constance Greiff, 1972. This hard-bound two-volume set is an impressively illustrated survey of the most important historic buildings that have been demolished throughout the United States. Its impassioned text speaks eloquently of the need for historic preservation to prevent such tragic losses in the future. The book was one of my major inspirations for becoming an architectural historian.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor who can be reached via voice mail at 510-273-9383 or at Markw@aol.com.

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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Condo buying che

There are many differences between buying a condominium and a single-family home. Condo buyers must consider these items before committing themselves.

CC&Rs, bylaws, articles of incorporation

As you will be sharing common areas and services with others in your development, a condition of buying a condo is your understanding and agreement to a set of rules applicable to all owners in the complex. If you rent out your unit, your tenant must adhere to association guidelines or else you could possibly be responsible for the tenant's misbehavior or lack of cooperation.

CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions), along with bylaws and articles of incorporation are the basic structure and regulations for the association. For example, to maintain a uniform look, there is usually a restriction on exterior painting. This is performed by tradespeople hired by the association, not individual owners. Similarly, significant structural alterations to the interior are normally subject to prior approval by the association.

Other matters, such as limitations on running a business from the unit and loud noise after certain evening hours, are traditionally included. Exclusion of pets has been addressed by certain changes in the law, so be sure to check association written policy and laws affecting it if this impacts you. Not paying full attention to required practices could cause headaches.

Last year, a man purchased a condo and happily moved in with his longtime companion, a macaw. Shortly thereafter, a neighbor complained that he was violating association guidelines by having a large parrot. This resulted in a big upset that may still be unresolved.

Financial documents

Current budget. Go over the most recent budget for an idea of projected income and expenses. You might notice a large expense for pest control work or a new roof. Are there sufficient reserves for this?

Reserve analysis. By studying the amount of reserves and how much is planned for major repairs or capital expenditures, you may get a clue about an impending assessment of all owners to replenish funds. This could impact your desire to buy or how much to pay.

Income statements, balance sheets. Take a look at these documents to further gauge the financial health of the operation. If you were given the "latest" reports, for example, dated September 2002 and you are reading them in March 2003, be concerned about how effectively the homeowner's association is being managed. After all, once you close escrow, their problems become yours.

Number of rented units. Generally, those who own have a greater vested interest in maintaining the property and following the rules than do renters. Despite the fact that there are many wonderful tenants, banks look at a high percentage of rental units as a negative.

Although lenders vary in their criteria, too many rental units in a development could preclude it from being eligible for a loan. Additionally, when considering value, agents

and appraisers take percentage of rental.

Dues delinquency. There should be a policy regarding the handling of dues and what happens if not paid on time. There are any number of reasons not included in the CC&Rs.

Other items. Receive the name and number of the agent representing the association. Give this information to a person who has adequate contacts with the media, name and telephone number to get in touch with the association president.

Inquire if there is a "minimum plan." The minimum plan and other rules and regulations.

Association minutes. Read the past 12 months of association meetings. No regular meetings, rent minutes are not available, be apprehensive. An indication of a disorganized organization.

Reading a year's worth of minutes will give you a sense of the issues and problems in the complex. You might find the reason for the sale because the association taken action against unpleasant neighbors now be your nemesis.

The seller is required to inform you of any current lawsuits involving the Active or pending litigation. Active or pending litigation include obtaining a court order.

Final thoughts

The information above is vital to your decision. Sometimes the seller does not have everything and the homeowner may be less than forthcoming with the documents. It is why the most professional agents work to prepare paperwork before the market.

Make sure you are informed and given all the information early in the escrow process. Receive everything, not just estate representation.

ten memoranda from an agent indicating what is still to be supplied. As a buyer, you have the right to approve all condo-related documents. Don't understand anything. Realtor.

Your unwillingness or more aspects of the transaction is run is a violation of the contract and the fund of your deposit. If you are between being a negotiator or being a negotiator, you could be the one to review your contract.

Don Dunning can be reached via voice mail at 485-7239.

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Building one massive garage sale

What would it take to get everything?

421 in a series of true estate agents in real estate agents. Pat and Anet wrote 421 articles in the past 10 years. Here's to 10 more!

Great Garage Sale in the Sky. I've named it, my occasional idea of cleaning out tons of belongings from my life. My visions are of empty shelves, clean, clear spaces.

ers wanted all of the appliances and the piano. Shaun's tools, family photos, more books, art, a homemade lamp and a 1950s di- they couldn't part with were stashed into two rented storage lockers.

Then, before the sale of the house closed, it was time to deal with the bulk of their belongings. Shaun called around and found a man interested in buying, in one fell swoop, everything that was left. He told the dealer that they wanted to sell it all, nothing excepted.

The dealer looked, inventoried, left to tally, returned the following day, and made an offer. On the third day, a truck and helpers arrived. Away went a ton of things, even Shaun's collections of around 400 ceramic pigs and knives of all sorts. (But he kept his 1940s Popular Mechanics and Popular Science. He's sure he'll read them one day.)

In the end, the household belongings fetched around \$5,000. Shaun also sold a precious Corvette (this was hard) and his pick-up truck.

He says that he might have gotten more money for some of the items if, for example, he had held out a few of the more unusual old knives to sell individually, but he didn't want to deal with this. He just wanted it all gone.

The family moved into their new RV in Petaluma near where Karina goes to school. Although small, it provides every comfort, including built-in beds and couch, kitchen complete with a Wolf range, full bath, water storage, furnace, air conditioner and generator.

Shaun says living in an RV is a different lifestyle, the basic rule

Maintenance

the beam continues to split and weaken, the damage could be a lot more severe than squeaky floors.

A better repair is to install a so-called sister beam. This is another beam of the same size, which is glued and bolted (not screwed) to the existing beam. Use 1-inch or 1 1/2-inch bolts.

The bolt holes should be staggered to avoid weakening the beams. Use a double row of bolts, spaced 12 to 18 inches apart and several inches from the top and bottom of the beams.

Readers' questions and comments are welcome and should be sent to Gene Austin, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 861, Blue Bell, Pa. 19062. Send e-mail to gaurstin@phillynews.com.

have an archway in one of the walls, and would like to find the arch with some wood. I'm told this is impossible, remodeling can't be curved. Suggestions?

definitely possible to make roof moldings from wood. Under Millwork in your Yellow Pages for businesses where moldings are made. Some firms also offer rubber moldings that can be bent around

could not rely on a plywood support the beam. If

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Shaun says living in an RV is a different lifestyle, the basic rule

being that if you bring something in, you get rid of something else. The RV is neat and tidy with no piles of anything allowed to grow. Dishes are washed immediately, mail gone through, garbage disposed of everyday.

In a period of 3 months last year, Shaun and Ann sold the house, car and pick-up. They bought the RV and a larger truck to haul it, also a small trailer for tools. And they acquired a backhoe and front loader and a Bobcat tractor they'll be needing.

For Shaun and Ann have a plan. They want to live a simpler, debt-free life, and they will do so in El Dorado County where they have a piece of land.

While they are building a tree house there (yes, a tree house), they'll live in their RV. Shaun, a building contractor, will continue to take some jobs to bring in cash.

There is still sound on the ground on the land but Shaun has been working on the tree house. The floor is in place, 15 feet off the ground and anchored to four trees.

He's built stairs to the floor and will be putting up walls soon. By the fall of this year, they hope to have the tree house and accompanying systems completed.

Because there are no municipal utilities available, they'll use solar panels, propane and a diesel generator for power. Shaun will build a composting toilet and install a wood stove for cooking and heat.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

They already have a phone line shared with a neighbor and soon they will pipe in water from a community artesian well.

Shaun grew up in a large family, the oldest of ten kids who lived nomad-like with their parents camping out, coast to coast, in national parks.

He learned the skills he and his family will need to live "off the grid" (without power) which is, as he says, "lots of work, lots to maintain."

Shaun has good memories of rural living. He talks about fishing, hunting and trapping. He tells of building various shelters and of burying potato tubers in a mound with bean and corn seeds on top.

The corn supports the bean vines, and when they are both done, the potatoes are ready to dig.

And he describes the method for attaching a house to trees, explains that he will insulate it, provide lighting.

He'll buy rights to felled oaks (about 6 cords will be needed each year) which he and Ann will split and stack for heat. Shaun will hollow out a pond, build a bath house, put up shelters and fencing for animals.

They'll have chickens and pigs and maybe a horse for Karina. When they move from the RV into their house in the trees, they'll have three times the living space. Why, they can begin collecting stuff again.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 510-653-2050

Kids

FROM PAGE B1

home inspections, taking care of all the final paperwork, and closing up your household is likely to produce a range of emotions for you and your kids.

Personality, age effect adjustment period

A lot of how well your child will adjust, experts say, depends on his or her personality and developmental age.

"Some children are naturally outgoing and will be able to make friends immediately while some other children may take months," said Lesia Oesterreich, a family life specialist at Iowa State University Extension, in an article for National Network for Child Care.

If your child tends to be a worrier or gets nervous easily, you'll see those characteristics exacerbated by the move process, she says.

The most important things you can do are to be understanding, acknowledging both positive and negative feelings, and to keep daily routines as normal as possible.

There are things you can do to help your child adjust to his or her new home and new school.

■ Once you know you will be moving, try to bring your child along when you look at houses so they understand and come to accept that the family will be moving.

■ Plan a farewell party for your child - this helps solidify the upcoming move in your child's mind and helps them accept reality.

■ Take your child to visit his or her new school. If possible, try to arrange for your child to meet the teacher ahead of time.

■ Introduce yourself to neighbors as soon as you move in. Your child may be able to get a head-start on making friends if you live near kids the same age.

■ Gather information on the

sports or other extra-curricular activities that interest your child so you know how and when to sign up.

■ Let your child ease into the academic aspect of school. Kids typically learn more easily when they are comfortable and at ease. Give them time to get adjusted to their new learning environment.

■ Encourage your child to invite new friends over to your new house. ■ Scout out your neighborhood parks and take your kids there frequently.

■ When you move into your new home, begin a new keepsake and encourage your child to write about his or her hopes and expectations at the new home.

■ Once you've selected your new house, show your child where his or her room will be. Draw a sketch of the room layout and let your child take part in determining where he or she will place the furniture.

■ If your budget allows, perhaps help your child choose a new décor for the new bedroom. If nothing else, new paint in a bright color is an inexpensive way to brighten up the room and give your child a sense of personalizing his or her new room.

■ Read children's literature about moving to your kids.

It takes time

The NNCC says that it can take as long as 16 months for kids and adults to adjust to a move. It usually takes about a month after you're moved in for it to sink in that the reality of friends and familiar places are no more.

So the most important thing you can do for your child as you move in the middle of the school year is to be patient. Everyone handles stress and change differently. And be a good role model. Let your kids see and hear you express your thoughts as you sort out your own feelings about your new environment.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

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Simply adorable two bedroom bungalow with decorator colors throughout! Hardwood floors, fireplace, vintage-tiled bathroom!

Offered at \$323,000



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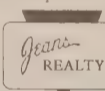


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Albany - \$449,000
937 Talbot Avenue

Charm of the 1920's, bright, split-level 2 bedrooms / 1 updated bath, hardwood floors, large updated eat-in kitchen, fireplace in living room, formal dining room with built-ins & French doors. Large laundry room off kitchen (great storage), 1 car detached garage used as a workshop with a workbench. Ideal location, wonderful property!



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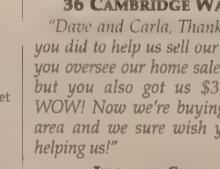
\$429,000 • GREAT OAKMORE FIXER
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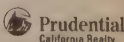
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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Calling All Women

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter has planned a mini-trade show for women interested in the process of home buying. "United We Stand: Homeownership for Women" will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 29. The show is held at the Network Coliseum in Oakland. Learn about home buying, credit lending and selecting a real estate professional. Children's activities are also included. There is a nominal charge for attendance, but parking is free. There is also easy access by BART. For additional information contact **Monique Washington** at 510-452-8280.

Architect For Alameda

Attend "Our Houses" in Alameda. From architecture to Victorian classics, the Alameda Museum provides lectures for everyone who loves homes. Prominent Bay area authors and historians narrate the slide lectures. This series continues through August. The next lecture in the series is "A.W. Smith: Architect," on March 27. Oakland Heritage Alliance member **Betty Marvin** offers her study of Smith and his work. According to Marvin, Smith's 27 Alameda residences showcase a range of styles. During the Victorian era he moved from Queen Anne to Colonial Revival to Bungalows. In the gallery you can view the Alameda High School Art Show. For lecture information call 510-748-0796.

Free Answers To Home Buying

Learn the answers to many home buying questions at "The Home Buying Answers Class." This free class is from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 5. Senior Loan Consultant **Margie Lupo** of Vintage Mortgage conducts the class. To pre-register, call the "Answers Class" hotline at 888-629-0077 x8610.

IT'S COMING!

Tech Faire 2003 is coming. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 2. Technology courses are offered on April 30 and May 1. More information is accessible on-line at www.techfaire.org.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Monthly lunch and learn sessions

are a tradition at the Berkeley Association of Realtors. Attend at the BAR Auditorium on Wednesday, March 21. BAR presents "Successful People," a panel of top-producing Realtors willing to share their success secrets. To join the Lunch Bunch call the BAR office at 510-848-4288.

OAR EDUCATION

The Oakland Association of Realtors presents "45-Hours DRE Continuing Education Seminar." Earn all your credits in half a day. The seminar is at the OAR Auditorium, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, April 9. The topics include Ethics, Agency, Fair Housing and more. **Greg Shoemaker** of Old Republic Title sponsors this educational opportunity. Registration information is available by calling OAR at 510-836-3000.

NEW AGENTS

Attention new agents. If you are renewing for the first time, you do not need 45 hours of credit. You are required to complete 12 hours. For more information call REVEL at 800-582-7979.

WCR GETS CLUE

The WCR East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, March 21. The discussion topic is "Get A Clue" on insurance issues affecting real estate in California. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is Scott's Restaurant, at Jack London Square in Oakland. For reservations call WCR President, **Patricia Bouie Hinds** of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or bouiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

TOUR DAY

Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast. The breakfast is at 8:45, on Thursday, March 27, at the OAR Building. This month's speaker is **Paul Valva** of Valva Realty. Valva is the Chair of "Realtors For Safe Neighborhoods." The topic is "Eviction Restriction (Measure EE): Where Do We Go From Here?" Bring marketing flyers and an appetite. Be a winner of one of many raffle prizes. Network more — sell more. For questions and parking information call **Ingrid Westgard** of North American Title at 510-339-2380 or **Ramadan Aziz** of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Talk about going above and beyond, that's what the recipients of the National Association of Realtors Good Neighbor awards do every day. If you know a Realtor who is a Good Neighbor, nominate them for the 2003 award (this national award was bestowed upon Realtor Oral Lee Brown of Oakland in 2001). The deadline for nominations is May 28. How do you find out more about being a volunteer? Learn from others with the "Leading A Charity" tool kit. Nomination forms and the tool kit are available at REALTOR.org/realtomag.

ETHICS DEADLINE

Don't wait to meet the National Association of Realtors ethics class requirement. The deadline is Dec. 31. The course stresses familiarity with the Code of Ethics and also an understanding of how the code applies to your business. Contact your local association for class information. Additionally, Realtor.org offers a free, online course.

SUCCESSFUL SELLING

Master Sales Trainer **Eric Lohm** offers free in-house sales and success workshops. Secrets of successful selling are explained. Participants of these workshops are invited to attend the Sales Success



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

2003 Seminar. The seminar covers in detail topics touched on at the workshops. Learn about time management, goal setting and referrals. The next seminar is Tuesday, April 8. Ticket information is available at salessuccess2003.com.

WHO'S ON FIRST

■ The Alameda Association of Realtors launched its new Web site. The Web site committee is open to suggestions for enhancement of the site. Visit www.alamedaar.org or call 510-523-7229.

■ Realtors at Harbor Bay Realty in Alameda can't say enough good things about their Office Manager **Judi Healy**. To say thank you, they held an appreciation luncheon for Healy and 60 people showed up. Healy is always available at 510-523-1140.

WHAT'S UP DOC??

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an e-mail to bobbieid@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

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JUST LISTED!

2051 Berryman
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Call Georgia for More Details! Offered at \$510,000

Sweeping View!

128 Mount Diablo Valley

This Approx. 1,440 sq. ft., 2Bd/2Ba, one level, end unit Townhome is situated in one of Oakland's best planned unit developments. This one won't last!

Call Maggie or Georgia for More Details! Offered at \$435,000

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Montclair 'Style'

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6654 Pine Needle Dr., Oakland

This newly remodeled 3BR/2.5BA contemporary home has delightful features, including terrific decks. The kitchen in the renovations is apparent with details such as counter tops, hardwood floors, master bedroom with walk-in closet, skylights and beautiful lighting.

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REALTORS

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are tightening credit... on residential mort... and it behooves you... up your credit act.

fewer reasons you can... lender to reject your ap... the greater the likeli... will get the mortgage you... and the cheapest rate.

the economy remains soft... would be more and more

The Federal Reserve's quar... Loan Officer Opinion... Bank Lending Prac... a survey of 60 large de... banks and 24 foreign

ies — found, in January... share of banks tightening... on residential mort... inch up to 11 per... 10 percent in the Octo...

numbers are relatively... that the increases were the... quarterly indications of... tightening in more... decade. While most

— 88.9 percent — re... change in their stan... there were no lenders that... credit standards.

Lightening was more pro... among smaller banks of... percent tightened stan... compared to only 8.8 per... large banks, the Fed re...

with continued eco... ness, there was a more... drop in home purchase... demand — the net fraction... reported

the demand for mortgages... phase homes over the past... months dropped to 7 per... January from 40 percent... previous survey. The share

is reporting substantially... demand for the loans... of dramatically from 14... in October to 2 percent in... survey.

Had typically surveys the... quarterly making the re... available for the January... August, and November

of the Federal Open... Committee. At those meet... the Fed decides to lower or... mark interest rates.

survey's questions cover... in the lending standards... the state of the lend... and household de... loans.

On average, bank stan... are nearly unchanged for... payments, credit scores... extent to which loans are

when customers don't... most scoring thresholds... in all three cases, that... learned more to... tightening standards some... easing standards

that the Federal Reserve... the company... the credit scoring... lenders use, offers... tips designed to

improve your credit... they can also help you... the impact of banks' tighter

tabs on your credit re... it at least once a year... for errors. Also, pull it... you apply for credit to... standing and deal with

ts... timely bill payments as... possible. The longer your... payment, the better... score.

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for and open credit ac... when you truly need... credit. Rapid fire credit... and opening new ac... lowers your score. It looks... business to lenders.

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Pitching in: How can I help sell my home?

■ What you can do that impacts a marketing effort

NMAN NEWS FEATURES

The spring home selling season is coming soon. In many areas, the combination of low inventories of properties for sale and low interest rates should promise prime selling opportunities.

In areas that have slowed from last year's record pace, you may find a property-specific market. Some listings will receive a favorable response from the buying community and will sell quickly. Others that don't quite hit the mark could languish on the market unsold.

You can have an impact on your marketing effort. The listings that sell well in any market are those that are prepared for sale, priced right for the market, marketed effectively and are easy to show.

Properly preparing your home for the market will set the stage for your entire marketing effort. Houses that show well are shown more often. When agents and buyers are enthusiastic about your home, the more likely you are to receive a good offer.

Preparing your home for sale needn't be an ordeal. It helps if you give yourself plenty of time so that you're not under pressure

to get work done in a short time frame. Meet with your real estate agent and walk through your home together. Have a note pad handy so that you can make a list of things that should be done to prepare your home for sale.

Don't open your home to buyers, or to other agents, until you have completed all the fix-up-for-sale work. After the work is done, have the home professionally cleaned and be sure to include the windows. First impressions are lasting, so make sure your home sparkles before you let anyone in.

Listings that don't sell are often priced too high for the market. Your home is most salable when it's new on the market. Agents and their buyers are eager to see new listings. Make the most of your new-listing status by selecting a list price that is realistic for the current market conditions in your area.

It helps to work with a listing agent that knows the local market intimately. Choose an agent with a good reputation that you can trust. Then rely on that agent to provide you with accurate pricing

information. The way to ensure that you get the maximum price for your home is to be sure that it receives extensive market exposure.

This means that the property should be advertised in the local multiple listing service, newspapers and on the Internet. Schedule a broker tour for local real estate agents. And, when appropriate, the house should be held open to the public.

Be wary of an agent who tries to save you from the hassle of marketing by selling your home without exposing it to the market. The person that stands to benefit most from this approach is the real estate agent, who saves on marketing costs and who may collect a larger share of the commission.

There's no chance of receiving multiple offers and a higher price if only one buyer sees the property. Make sure that your listing is easy for agents to show to their buyers. A cumbersome and complicated showing procedure will cut down the number of showings. You should plan to leave when your property is shown to

prospective buyers. You should also be gone during broker and public open houses.

THE CLOSING: Often sellers want to stick around to be sure that viewers don't miss important features of the property. It's best to brief your agent about the property and let him or her do the marketing for you.



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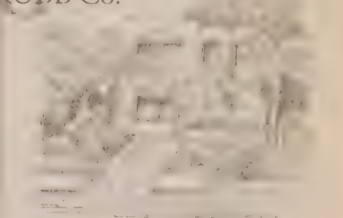
5626 Weaver Place, Oakland
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Located on 3.2 acres in Hillcrest Estates, this one of a kind property with a six horse barn, landscaped gardens & expansion potential features stunning views from San Francisco to the South Bay including serene canyon views. Updated throughout with four bedrooms including two suites, state of the art kitchen, hardwood floors and crown molding, are tastefully combined to create this beautiful one of a kind environment.
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\$185,000 424 Orange St. 4106, Easy living! 1bd, 1ba, near 580 Covered parking on living room. Attached garage. Great investment! Diana 510-814-4718	\$449,000 423 Athol Ave. 1-level bungalow, 2+bd, 1ba, new paint inside and out, refinished hardwood floors, new roof, new kitchen vinyl, tile counter, & Wedgewood stove. Bright sunroom, large yard, and garage. Chuck 510-814-4847
\$229,000 608 Almanza Dr. Contemporary single level 2bd, 1ba home with fireplace and attached garage. Great starter home. Very clean and bright. Trustee Sale. Martha 510-814-4828	\$690,000 4177 Montgomery St. Fourplex. Charming building with many upgrades! Great location, just off Piedmont. 2 units and 2 garages & 2 parking spaces. Lovely yard. Near shopping, dining, and transportation. Dee 510-814-4833
\$315,000 2380 108th Ave. Updated 1-level bungalow, 2+bd, 1.5ba, new appliances, new paint, new carpets, new central heat & new back lawn. Maryann 510-814-4873	\$629,000 5587 Greenridge Rd. Wonderful Ebbett! Excellent lot! 4bd, 3ba, 2bath. Enormous front/back yard, with large windows & lovely views. Mark 510-814-4874
\$349,500 5817 Pleardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Laney" A 3bd, 2 1/2 bath. Level gem needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818	\$419,000 328 Hass Ave., Split level 3bd, 1 ba, bungalow with natural wood in living & dining rooms, hardwood flrs under carpet, pocket doors, large eat-in kitchen. Huge yard! Bev 510-814-4818
\$415,000 3707 Virden Ave. Charming 2+bd, 2b Spanish Mediterranean. Great views of SF. New interior paint and roof. Formal dining room, basement. Donn 510-814-4854	\$389,500 16145 Via Karl, Sharp Ranch style 3bd, 2 ba home w/ family room. Brkfr fireplace, dining area, & updated kitchen. Private rear yard, fruit trees. Hot tub! Great location. Steve Cressy 814-4818

marvin gardens real estate

 <p>OAKLAND, 2521 8th Ave. ART DECO DUPLEX. Built circa 1939 as side-by-side units situated in a large garden setting. Each unit consists of 2 bedrooms upstairs, formal dining room, spacious living room, basement space & 1-car parking. One unit has 2 baths, the other has 1 1/2 baths. Easy commute to San Francisco. Perfect for shared ownership or home plus income. Open Sunday 2-4 Kathie Berg 527-2700 x34</p>	 <p>OAKLAND, 310 & 312 Athol. QUALITY DUPLEX. Well-suited for owner occupant plus income or as investment. Lower unit is charming 1+ bedroom, 1 bath unit, used as 2 bedroom. Upper unit is 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath. Great location near lake, park & transportation. 2-car garage. Many upgrades. Open Sunday 2-4 Ken Katz 527-2700 x40</p>	 <p>BERKELEY, 2418 5th Street, Unit A. ONE OF TWO UNITS! A spacious live/work style condominium. Walking distance to 4th St. shopping, 1 bedroom, 1 bath with concrete & Pergo floors. Bottom unit with roll-up door, lots of windows & light. Private backyard with parking space. Laundry room included in the unit. Open Sunday 1-5 Meridee Carter 527-2700 x39</p>	 <p>BERKELEY, 1216 Parker St. ABSOLUTELY FAB! LOUS BERKELEY BUNGALOW! Absolutely remodeled gourmet kitchen features cherry cabinets, custom lighting, granite counters and more! Beautifully detailed interiors include two bedrooms, remodeled bath, built-in in the living & dining rooms, fireplace & hardwood floors throughout. Deck, deep park-like yard, plus ample off-street parking & a garage with utilities. Open Sunday 2-4 David Bigelow 527-2700 x37</p>
 <p>ALBANY, 711 Buchanan. Two bedroom, two bath, large plus area for 3rd bathroom or office. Newly remodeled kitchen & baths. Hardwood floors, dual-pane windows. 2-car garage. Private garden. Convenient location near schools, recreation & transportation. Open Sunday 1-5 Meridee Carter 527-2700 x39</p>	 <p>BERKELEY, 2656 Virginia St. UPPER: 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful large living room w/ fireplace, hardwood floors, dining room & kitchen. LOWER: Newly remodeled. Spanish pavers, large living room, beautiful new kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Gorgeous landscaped front garden & giant backyard. Walk to campus & shops. Open Sunday 2-5 Richard Morrison 527-2700 x32</p>	 <p>KENSINGTON, 40" Berkeley Park Blvd. Irresistible Craftsman bungalow on tree-lined street. Two bedrooms, 1 bath, beautiful light, peaceful garden. Lovely studio with French doors to private backyard. Must see Japanese-style sunken tub. Steps to Colusa Circle. Open Sunday 2-4 Barbara Kaplan 559-2910</p>	 <p>BERKELEY, 933 Addison #C. Two bedroom, one bath condominium in walking distance to fashionable Fourth Street shops and restaurants. Private rear unit with new carpeting. Great alternative to renting. Still Available Darrell Hah 292-3040</p>
 <p>OAKLAND, 3800 Maybelle Ave., Unit 2. Lovely Laurel District 2-story townhouse, close to shops & freeway. Spacious living room with fireplace, bright, sunny kitchen & dining room, private back yard. 2 large bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 2 decks, inside laundry. Open Sunday 2-4 Kim Welch 292-3046</p>			

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Talking with Thekla Hammond: Building an artist's studio

Part one of two parts

In a continuing series about artists and their environment, Sheila Sabine of the Glass Sabine Team recently met with artist Thekla Hammond at her studio near Berkeley's popular Fourth Street area. The interview focuses on the process of building an artist's studio behind one's house. This is just what Thekla and her husband Steve did, and here's what the Glass Sabine Team learned about the process.

GST Tell me what you saw through your artist's eyes when you first looked at this property.

TH It was 1985. Steve and I had just been married and we were living in the city which was a very exciting place to be, but somehow for

me, I always felt like I was on vacation — mostly because I couldn't walk out my back door into a garden.

Steve was working at an urban planning firm on Fourth Street in Berkeley so he knew about the changes in store for this area. And, as everyone knows, the growth of Fourth Street has been phenomenal. What used to be a "no-man's land" when we first moved here is now a place where there's no place to park!

Anyway, at lunchtime, Steve would drive around this neighborhood and then tell me "This is the place to buy. This is the only place in Berkeley that makes any sense." And I said, "OK, fine." Actually, Steve

saw this house the day it came on the market, and he saw it as perfect because it is zoned for mixed use — meaning I could build a studio.

So we called our Realtor to say we had found something and when she came over to look at it, she began telling us all the reasons that we should not buy this house! However, I immediately envisioned what you see here today; I could build a studio behind the house and walk through my garden to get there — and that was the clincher.

GST You can have a connection with nature on your way to create.

TH Exactly right. The house itself had been built in 1902 as a summer cottage for people from

S.F. Along the way, there had been a few additions, but it was definitely a hodge-podge. However, the lot was large enough that we knew we could put in a garden, and build a studio. Also, another very important element for me is the light in the house; it was very appealing to me.

So, we put in an offer and even back then — almost 20 years ago — the market was very active and competitive much like it is today, and we got it! And then . . . I invited my family to come have a look. Their reactions? Well, my brother said "You're not going to actually live here, are you?" His concerns centered around the back-hoe company next door, the complete lack of curbs and sidewalks on any of

the nearby streets and the rather rundown condition of many of the houses in the neighborhood.

However, as it turned out, many of those houses had studios behind them. At the time, this was a real center for potters and almost every house had a potter or an artist of some sort working there.

GST So it sounds as if there was a sort of collective energy in the neighborhood that was calling out

JUDITH GLASS
to your artistic soul
could feel it and then
of making the space
you were in
— SABINE

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2917 MacArthur #2D
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80 Godornices Road, Berkeley
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4301 Bridgeview Drive, Oakmore
COMING SOON. The architectural details of both the New England Colonial style and the Spanish Mexican traditions are richly reflected in this wonderful home. Spacious formal rooms with parquet floors, fireplace, updated kitchen with breakfast room, home office & 3BR/2BA. Lower level with in-law suite and rumpus room with fireplace.
Offered at \$799,000

BETTINA BALESTRIERI
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balestrieri@grubbco.com
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Lunch Served

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New Orinda Listing!
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2-4:30PM

32 Scenic Drive, Orinda
This fabulous light filled contemporary with beamed cathedral ceilings is a great example of architectural design for the California style of living. Walls of glass face a gorgeous setting with patios and decks for outdoor enjoyment. In addition to the four bedrooms and two bath, there is a large family room, and separate study. A truly wonderful home!
Offered at \$819,000

Leslie Avant
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1341

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Open Sunday 2-5 pm

2478 Cole St. Oakland
New Listing! Built in 1918, this charming bungalow is quite inviting with its lovely warm color palette. A formal living room with a large picture window, fireplace, built-in bookcases & hardwood floors is perfect for curling up with a good book or for entertaining. A sizable dining room & adjoining newer kitchen add to entertaining enjoyment. The lovely hill view & nice level backyard complete the picture. Come and enjoy!
3+BR/2BA

Offered at 398,000

For More Information Call
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Fine Homes Fine Homes

Montclair Contemporary
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2-4:30pm

75 Larry Lane
Beautiful 3BR/2.5BA in tranquil, serene setting. Spacious living room with fireplace, formal dining room, Kitchen/Family room. Perfect floor plan for cooking or entertaining. Professionally landscaped.
Offered at \$725,000

Robyn Mohr
Broker Associate
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2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH HOME IN MAXWELL
4427 Virginia Avenue • \$339,000

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Looking for meticulous property?
This quaint home has been completely redone and lovingly maintained. Beautiful remodeled kitchen and bath with top-of-the-line appliances and Corian. There is a combination living and dining room and sun off the kitchen. The spacious master bedroom has a sitting area and closet. Overlooking the backyard is a charming deck — perfect for Sunday paper. The large backyard has fruit trees and a potting shed. Smith at 510-521-1508 or Nissa Dash at 510-521-1257

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2 New Listings

4-PLEX
Townhouse style - pride of ownership is evident thru-out. Owner's w/patio & deck. Newer carpets & recently painted. Enclosed garage from Plaza & BART station. \$845,000. #170

EL CERRITO
Beautiful home, spacious hardwood floors, built-in appliances, skylights and too many more features to mention. \$845,000.

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Maison Nouveau Realty offers 2 percent commission

MAISON NOUVEAU REALTY

BERKELEY — Maison Nouveau, which opened March 1, is charging customers 2 percent real estate commission for one basic reason — to save home buyers and sellers money in the hot Bay Area real estate market.

"Traditional real estate brokers charge 6 percent commissions to sell a home. That doesn't make sense anymore," says Heather Sittig, president of Maison Nouveau Realty, Inc. "Given the cost of real estate in the Bay Area, traditional fees are just too high. Maison Nouveau intends to revolutionize the local real estate market by providing progressive pricing strategies to the value-conscious and sophisticated home owner while maintaining a superior level of service."

The staff of highly talented agents works collaboratively, not independently, for each customer. "Our agents pool their commissions so there is no animosity or competition for customers," says Sittig.

One agent is designated the client liaison, ensuring someone is available to service the buyers' and sellers' specific needs while the rest of the

team works behind the scenes to coordinate necessary activity throughout the transaction.

"By dividing the essentials of the real estate sales process, it allows each agent to specialize in a unique facet

Traditional real estate brokers charge 6% commissions to sell a home. That simply doesn't make sense anymore.

Heather Sittig, president
Maison Nouveau

of the transaction," says Sittig. "It's a total team approach to selling real estate."

She explained, "Let's say you sold your home for \$500,000. The traditional 6 percent commission totals \$30,000, which is split \$15,000 to the buyer's agent and \$15,000 to the seller's agent. With Maison Nouveau's 2 percent program, Nouveau's portion is \$10,000."

Maison Nouveau's progressive fee structure program also

includes a competitive pricing model designed for Bay Area homes valued at over \$1,000,000. A flat-fee-for-service plan will also be offered to homeowners that want to sell their homes without the help of a full service real estate company, but still need guidance in closing the real estate transaction.

"We are implementing the latest technology and leveraging the best partnerships to support operations, sales and marketing and to service all of our clients' needs even after the close," Sittig said.

Sittig's personal involvement in the community has prompted her to support local artists by exhibiting their art work in the office on College Avenue.

"This is just one of the ways Maison Nouveau supports the community in which we work and live," MN is establishing the Maison Nouveau Foundation. "We aim to give substantial portions of our profits to local and international charitable organizations," said Sittig.

Contact Maison Nouveau Realty, Inc. 2701 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-9900, Hlsittig@cs.com or www.Maison-NouveauRealty.com.

Ask the Dirt Gardener: non-blooming v

BY BUZZ BERTOLERO
CORRESPONDENT

Q. Why can I get my African Violet plants to bloom? I buy new plants and once they finish blooming, they never bloom again.

A. New African Violet plants fail to bloom after the initial blooming period because of insufficient light. African Violets must have 10 to 14 hours of bright natural light per day, but no direct sun. Because Violets process nutrients during a "resting phase," they

should have a minimum of eight hours of darkness each day. Variegated Violet varieties need more light than plants with solid green leaves, as there is less chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is necessary, as it turns light into plant food through photosynthesis.

You can enhance the amount of natural light by siting the plants on mirror tiles that are as large or larger than the plants. This reflects the available light upwards into the plant(s). If adequate natural light is not avail-

able, you can use artificial light. They are available in various sizes and colors. They should be placed 12 to 18 inches above the plants. Insufficient light causes plants to stop blooming.

African Violets need frequent watering, but every 12 to 15 days. If you overwater, the plant will die. For every one

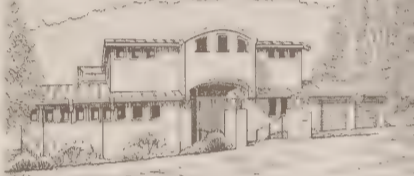
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NEW LISTING



1190 Grand View Drive, Claremont Hills

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Large, stunning, architect designed contemporary w/ Bay & City views located on an expansive lot with terraced lawns, Bay trees. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, family room, office, fabulous guest suite, garage. Master retreat with views! Spectacular integration of simplicity & luxury. Offered at \$1,975,000

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Photo Tour of this and other current listings

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Open
Sunday
1:30-4:30pm

Crocker Highlands Traditional



1049 Hubert Road

Charming 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath traditional on a wonderful street. Built in 1921, this home features a classic floor plan with delightful architectural details. Living room adjoins sunny family room with easy outdoor access. Lovely formal dining room with French doors to deck overlooking fabulous private garden and level yard.

Offered at \$845,000

Dolores Thom

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(510) 835-6026 Voice Mail
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Jackie Care

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(510) 835-6026 Voice Mail
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RIDGEMONT \$1,529,000
13323 CAMPUS DRIVE (Open 2-4:30)
Custom built w/fabulous great room, formal dining, large level yard, master suite w/sitting room, terrace & bay views. 5+BR/4.5BA. Dee Knowland x1318

MONTCLAIR \$1,475,000
16024 BROADWAY TER. (Open 2-4:30)
Courtyard design. Great bay views. Large kitchen/family room. 4+BR/3.5BA, 2 suites. Rosalie Woods x1324

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,395,000
6138 OCEAN VIEW DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Distinctive custom Craftsman. 3+BR/2.5BA gourmet kitchen, cherry floors, lovely patio, level yard, excellent location. Dee Knowland x1318

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,295,000
6117 BUENA VISTA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Stately Mediterranean style home with sweeping SF/bay views. 4+BR/2.5BA, den and chef's kitchen. Fritz Hochfelner x1348



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,200,000
1033 ASHMOUNT AVE. (Open 2-5)
New listing! Architecturally rich 5+BR/3BA. 4000+ sq. ft.; gorgeous formal rooms; sun room/home office; rec/rumpus room. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

MONTCLAIR \$1,175,000
1225 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
Stylish new home w/high ceilings, cherry floors & artistic stonework. Large family room opens to garden. Close to Montclair Village. 4BR/3.5BA. Sandi Klemmer x1314



BERKELEY \$975,000
621 ARLINGTON AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Gorgeous sunny Colonial. 4+BR/3BA, main level family room, large level-out yard and filtered bay views. Wendy Gardner x1303

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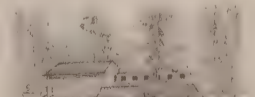
BERKELEY \$925,000
2806 PRINCE ST. (Open 2-4:30)
Beautiful 3BR/2BA one-level Craftsman in Claremont area. Architectural details. Fabulous remodeled kitchen. French doors to deck & garden. Nancy Noonan X1373

OAKLAND HILLS \$910,000
1830 GRAND VIEW DR. (Open 2-4)
Sophisticated 2+BR/2+BA craftsman with stunning bay views. Hardwood floors; 2 fireplaces; loft office; www.jeanineweller.com X1329

MONTCLAIR \$899,000
7455 WOODROW DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Near Montclair Village. Stunning 2 yr. old home w/impeccable interior finishes & enchanting outdoor spaces. 3+BR/2.5BA, family & rumpus room. Nancy Moore x1302

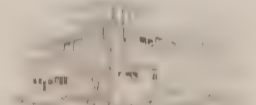
ORINDA \$819,000
32 SCENIC DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Wonderful light filled contemporary with 4+BR/2BA, walls of glass, large gorgeous setting, large family room, study, level yard + basketball court. Leslie Avant x1341

MONTCLAIR \$749,000
75 LARRY LANE (Open 2-4:30)
Contemporary 3BR/2.5BA in serene setting. Kitchen/family room, hardwood floors, convenient to schools, village & freeway. Robyn Mohr x1310



MONTCLAIR \$639,000
6654 PINE NEEDLE DR. (Open 2-4:30)
New listing! 3+BR/2.5BA newly remodeled contemporary w/terrific decks, hardwood floors, built-ins, skylights. Dick Cohen x1308

MONTCLAIR \$603,000
6680 HEARTWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
New listing! Level in contemporary with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, family rooms, soaring ceilings, & 2 fireplaces. Kathy Flynn x1317



BERKELEY \$599,000
6 ARCADE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Sophisticated 2+BR/2BA brown shingle contemporary with bay views. Dramatic 2 story LR. Loft. Remodeled kitchen. Jack McPhail x1336

OAKLAND HILLS \$579,000
3030 BROADMOOR VW (Open 2-4:30)
Panoramic bay view, 3 levels, 4BR/3.5BA, family room, rumpus, 2 car attached garage, approx. 2500 sq. ft. Master suite, decks & level yard. Kathy Flynn x1317

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$529,000
3386 KIWANIS ST. (Open 2-4:30)
Sweeping bay views, formal dining room & family room. 3BR/1+BA on quiet street. Diane Earl McCan x1352

SAN LEANDRO \$519,000
794 ESTUDILLO AVE. (Open 1-4)
Lovely 3BR/2BA in Estudillo Estates. Fabulous floor plan, lots of light, formal dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen, large level patio & garden. Candy Benny x1328

OAKLAND HILLS \$410,000
320 CALDECOTT LN #327 (Open 2-4:30)
Wonderful 2BR/2BA condo w/ separate loft. Shows well. For further details, please contact Francis Heath x1357

UPPER LAUREL \$319,000
4329 TOMPKINS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming bungalow. 2BR/1BA, large eat-in kitchen, separate laundry room, small backyard & many improvements. Kathy Flynn x1317

OAKLAND HILLS \$379,000
7530 VALENTINE ST. (Open 2-5)
Charming bright 2BR/1BA on great street. Detached workshop/studio w/skylights, eat-in kitchen, remodeled bath, hwd floors, yard. Vicki Woodhead x1334

MAXWELL PARK \$325,000
2543 MONTICELLO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Simply adorable 2 bedroom/1 bath bungalow w/hardwood floors, fireplace, vintage-tiled bath. Lorri Arazi x1330

In Appointment

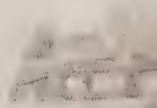


MONTCLAIR \$1,425,000
Prestigious 2-year-old home set on level private knoll with top-of-the-world SF and Bay views. Terraces, gardens, and sweeping lawns. 4BR/3+BA. Teri Carlisle x1305

PIEDMONT \$1,250,000
Unobstructed SF, Bay & G.G. views. 4BR/3BA, den, family room, view deck, spacious patio & lush terraced gardens. Lorri Arazi x1330

NORTH BERKELEY \$985,000
A romantic blend of California living & Scandinavian simplicity. 4BR/3BA, panoramic views, extra lot. Gini Erick x1339

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,195,000
Bay view lot, privacy. Approx. 12,800 square feet. One mile to BART. David Ichikawa x1307



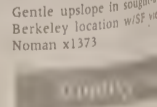
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,195,000
Level living, garden vista & recently restored 3BR/2.5BA. ing room, family room, Charles x1370 & Helen Danahall x1307

BERKELEY \$1,195,000
Julia Morgan designed custom w/bay views, fireplace, built-ins, hardwood floors, 2+BR/1BA, formal dining, covered patio. Dick Cohen x1308

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,195,000
Updated townhouse, sweeping country club views, spacious living room, family room, level yard. 3BR/2.5BA. 2 car garage. Mohr x1310

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,195,000
Next to the Zoo. 3BR/2.5BA, formal living room, family room, level yard, 2 car attached garage. Kathy Flynn x1317

BERKELEY LOT \$1,195,000
Gentle upslope in sought-after Berkeley location w/SF views. Nancy Noonan x1373

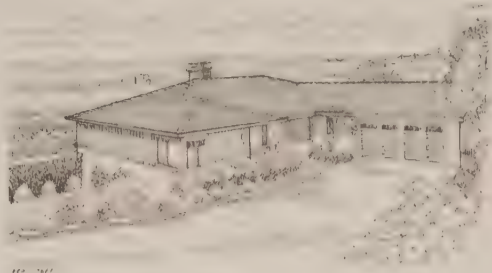


NORTH BERKELEY \$1,195,000
From the office of Bernard M. William Rees House. c. 1900. Restoration award. 1991. Berkeley magnificent chalet. Gini Erick x1339

MAXWELL PARK \$1,195,000
Charm & sophistication in a historic setting. 4BR/3BA, large yard, storybook street. Joan Dada x1307

Panoramic Views in Piedmont!

190 Maxwellton Road



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Handsomely built on a promontory for ultimate privacy, this extraordinary home offers unobstructed views of downtown San Francisco, the Bay, and the Golden Gate Bridge! The living/dining room is graced with floor to ceiling fenestration for full appreciation of the views. The floor plan includes 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, a den and a family room. A view deck, spacious patio, and lush, terraced gardens provide the perfect setting for this most livable work of art!



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1330 Campus Drive, Berkeley Open Sunday, 2-4

Bay View home nestled in Live Oak and Bay trees creates a secluded setting for this exciting home. It features 3 bdrms, 2 baths, plus recreation room or family area and separate, detached studio or office. This home is perfect for the person that appreciates beautiful oak & mahogany clad walls & floors. The skylight & vaulted ceiling of the tiled gallery entry will draw you into this dramatic experience.
\$699,000. **Terese Ashman x11**



466 Hudson, Rockridge By Appointment

This stunning craftsman bungalow within easy access to Market Hall, all College Ave. amenities and BART offers three generous sized bedrooms & 2 full bathrooms and remodeled kitchen. Brick fireplace, boxed beams, beveled glass hutch, wainscoting and more. An added bonus is the artist studio and well tended yard.
\$649,000. **Joan Brunswick x12**



3047 Wheeler, Berkeley Open Sunday, 1-4

Amazingly lush garden affords privacy and tropical dreams! Special 1907 unassuming bungalow w/ generous living spaces. Beautiful wood detailing in the formal dining room; festive and fun family room opens from kitchen. 2 bedrooms, 1 remodeled bath.
\$499,000. **Nancy Mueller x20**



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—M.G. & M.M., Oakland

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OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2-5PM New Listing!



1033 Ashmount Ave, Oakland

This five bedroom, three bath meticulously maintained sun-drenched 1920's traditional is located on one of Highland's most desirable and rarely available! Rich architectural details, gracious oversized rooms, and outlooks enhance this truly unique property. Additional features include formal dining room, home office/sun room, rec/rumpus room, two car attached garage with interior access.



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Offered at \$1,200,000



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★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

Sleek Custom Contemporary \$1,395,000
Sophisticated 1 year old courtyard home. 3+BR/2.5BA, atrium, artist's loft, skylights, large lot, open floor plan, prestigious Roble Road address.
Ford/Plowright
(510) 848-1093



Crocker Highlands \$995,000
Distinctive traditional. Elegant and spacious. Gorgeous gumwood, great remodeled kitchen and family room with access to deck.
Dolores Thom
(510) 834-2010

Montclair Paradise \$849,000
4BR/3BA, gorgeous Bay views, gourmet kitchen, paradise garden and fountain entry.
Scott Thompson
(510) 428-0900



★ **Open Sun. 1:30-4:30 \$845,000**
1049 Hubert Rd. Delightful 1920's home. 3BR/1.5BA. Formal dining room, family room, French doors to deck and fabulous level yard.
Jackie Care/Dolores Thom
(510) 834-2010

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$824,500**
11710 Cranford Way. Great 4BR/3BA floor plan. Panoramic Bay views and backyard next to open space.
George Millirons
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$810,000**
830 Calmar Avenue. Price reduction! 5+BR/3.5BA, fireplace, hardwood floors, unique floor plan with 70's addition to rear.
Stephanie Jones
(510) 868-1427

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$759,000**
5876 Birch Court. Prime location duplex, one block from BART and Market Hall. Rare mini-homes!
Mark Miller
(510) 428-0900



Coming Soon! \$599,000
Rockridge charming home. Large enclosed gardens. 2BR/2BA and huge multi-purpose room. Garage.
Glass-Sabine Team
(510) 428-0900

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$599,000**
557 Rosal Avenue. Gracious 3+BR/1+BA 1920's home is well-maintained with remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors. In excellent location.
Gene Boomer
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$575,000**
6821 Thornhill Drive. Price reduced on great 2+BR/1.5BA Contemporary near Village. This is not a drive by!
Andreas Furtner
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-5 \$529,900**
4235 Reinhardt Drive. 1936 sq. ft., 3BR/2BA remodeled home. Cul-de-sac location. Large view lot.
Tamara Zeltser
(925) 858-0858

Redwood Heights \$485,000
Refurbished Cape Cod 3BR/2BA on cul-de-sac with oak kitchen, parquet floors, fireplace in living room and wonderful yard.
Grynbal/Randall
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-5 \$399,000**
443 51st Street. Temescal classic. Lovely 2BR/1BA with formal dining/living plus bonus room/parade basement.
Luis Castillo-Munoz
(510) 834-2010

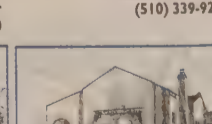
★ **Open Sun. 12-3 \$399,000**
2942 Madeline. Home and hearth. 3BR/1BA. Living room, kitchen with eating area, family room with fireplace, hardwood floors, peaceful backyard.
Graham Carter
(510) 530-4902

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$395,000**
3930 Columbian Drive. The Dome! Rare 3BR/2BA Geo home on huge lot. Totally private, woody setting on cul-de-sac.
Roxanne Bruns
(510) 868-1467

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$379,000**
776 58th Street. Great North Oakland location. 3BR/2BA with hardwood floors, Old World details and numerous structural upgrades.
Craig Shane
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$359,000**
3030 Linden Street. Remodeled Victorian 2+BR/1BA. 2-car garage, hardwood floors, family room, deck, large yard, new foundation.
Howard Converse
(510) 339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$359,000**
4843 Fairfax. Gracious living room, bright kitchen nook, sunny deck and private backyard. 3BR/1BA.
Amy Davis
(510) 868-1465



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4843 Fairfax. Gracious living room, bright kitchen nook, sunny deck and private backyard. 3BR/1BA.
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Schneider

FROM PAGE B3

With the winter and spring rains and long dry summers we have had the past two years, the soil has had the opportunity to move more than normal. This can make hairline cracks become bigger and more noticeable, and can cause doors and windows to shift and bind in their openings.

Cracking will also occur when a vertical support post under the house settles or moves. Large cracks should always be investigated to determine the cause before any repairs are attempted.

If the cracking is minor, the crack can be usually be caulked and painted over. Ideally, the crack would be cut open slightly, to allow the caulking or patching material to fully seal the void between the two edges. Otherwise, the caulking will only be on the surface of the material, and will separate or break apart if the crack moves in the future.

John R. Schneider is a licensed general building contractor and a certified residential code specialist. Readers may address their comments to John Schneider, 24326 Mission Blvd. Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. Fax number: 510 537-8666, or on the Web at www.allaboutthomes.com. Please include your phone number.

Seminar

FROM PAGE B11

Get the answers to your home buying questions, whether you are buying for the first time or ready to move-up. Find out if you qualify for a larger home, why you really need a real estate agent and if your credit is OK. You will learn how to buy with a zero down payment and zero cost.

The facilitator is Senior Loan Consultant Margie Lupo of Vintage Mortgage. With over twenty years in the industry, Lupo understands all aspects of the home buying process. "A feeling of security is created by home ownership," said Lupo. "This class helps the buyer make the right decisions and could save them thousands."

If you aren't ready to sell but have questions on refinancing your home, Lupo can provide the answers. With interest rates at forty year lows, there is no better time to think about paying off credit card debt, remodeling or just lowering your mortgage payment. Attend the class or ask for a private, one-on-one counseling session.

The April class will also have a guest speaker, Area specialist, Lisa Sterling-Sanchez of RE/Max East Bay Group provides information on the local market. Sterling is a Realtor and the 2003 Multiple Listing Service Chair for the Bay East Association of Realtors. She is a member of the Women's Council of Realtors Southern Alameda County Chapter and chairs their Education Committee. This top-producing agent brings her fourteen years of experience in the industry, to aid those attending the workshop.

Bring your questions and a guest if you choose, but you must pre-register. Call the "Answers Class" hotline to reserve a spot at 888-629-0077 ext. 8610. Information on future classes and one-on-one consultations are also available.

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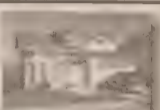
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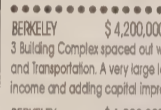
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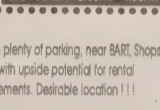
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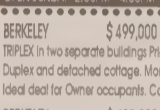
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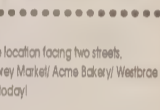
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PIEDMONT - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



165 WOODLAND WAY

A charming home in a desirable Piedmont neighborhood! Gracious formal living and dining rooms. Open eat-in kitchen with sitting area & garden access; 4BR + rumpus room.

\$1,175,000

Mindy Scott



356 WILDWOOD AVE.

This wonderful traditional home is filled with old world charm, matchstick hardwood floors. 4BR/2BA up, huge deck area, potential and views.

PIEDMONT - By APPOINTMENT



PIEDMONT ESTATE

This incredible Albert Farr designed estate has it all! Magnificent woods, rare architectural details, 6BR and a recently landscaped garden including a glamorous swimming pool.

\$3,995,000

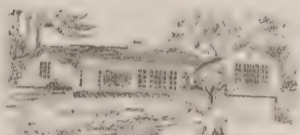
Anian Pettit Tunney



HIDDEN ESTATE

This glamorous estate on almost one acre has been recently renovated. Offers exquisite grounds, an English guest cottage & beautiful bottom pool.

BERKELEY - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



80 CODORNICES ROAD

Very elegant one-level living on a quiet cul-de-sac! Bay views, 2BR/2BA, library, private garden. A rare opportunity! Near Berkeley's Rose Garden. Bebe McRae

\$850,000



111 TAMALPAIS ROAD

Historic home in N. Berkeley owned by scientist E.O. Lawrence. 5BR/3.5BA, glorious vistas & large landscaped garden. Lower floor could be in-law apt.

\$850,000

Susie Schevill



1037 SILER PLACE

Claremont Hills sophisticated & serene contemporary with vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & beautiful garden. Located on a large lot for privacy.

OAKLAND & MORAGA - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



6031 SKYLINE BLVD.

Open 2-Sunset. Unrivaled Mediterranean Villa w/ incredible view of the Bay, Bridges & SF. Just completed! Media room, elevator. Cobblestones, flagstone courtyard & terraces. Pizza oven.

\$2,498,000

Debra J. Dryden



5955 GIRVIN DRIVE

Dramatic Piedmont Pines contemporary w/bridge & canyon views. Expansive lot. 4BR/3.5BA. Two master suites. Vaulted ceilings. Large deck with hot tub. Many extras!

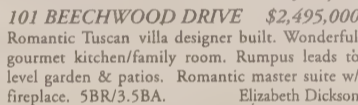
\$829,000

Erika Celeste



101 GLEN EDEN AVE.

Sited on a large level corner lot, this traditional home constructed in 1940 offers great views, lovely windows & a private, secure garden. Close to coffee & shops.



101 BEECHWOOD DRIVE

Romantic Tuscan villa designer built. Wonderful gourmet kitchen/family room. Rumpus leads to level garden & patios. Romantic master suite w/ fireplace. 5BR/3.5BA.

\$2,495,000

Elizabeth Dickson

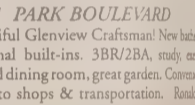


407 HUDSON STREET

1999 two-story Craftsman home in the heart of Rockridge. 3BR/2BA, dream master with study & sitting area. Fabulous kitchen with white hardwood floors & top-of-the-line appliances.

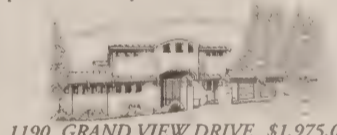
\$829,000

Mavis Delacroix



4280 HOWE STREET

Utterly charming 2-story Victorian, restored. 2BR/1.5BA, large level garden off the back. Great location & style. Near shops, dining & transportation.

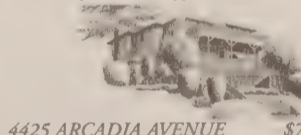


1190 GRAND VIEW DRIVE

Spacious, stunning & innovative contemporary in the Claremont Hills. Beautiful Bay & city views! Expansive lot with terraced lawns. 5BR/3.5BA, family room, guest suite, aupa!

\$1,975,000

Helene Barkin

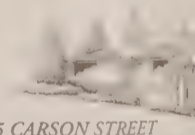


4425 ARCADIA AVENUE

A custom home in the desirable upper Oakmore neighborhood, set amongst the trees. A peaceful retreat w/dramatic Bay views. Sunny gourmet kitchen. 2 master suite w/deck.

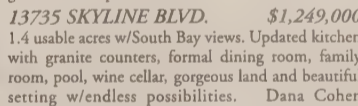
\$789,000

Jill Carrigan



4425 CARSON STREET

Wonderful split-level 3BR/2.5BA home. Random plank hardwood floors, rumpus room. Access to lovely back garden from rear. Redwood Heights.

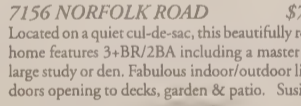


13735 SKYLINE BLVD.

1.4 usable acres w/South Bay views. Updated kitchen with granite counters, formal dining room, family room, pool, wine cellar, gorgeous land and beautiful setting w/ endless possibilities.

\$1,249,000

Dana Cohen

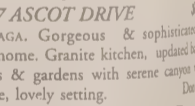


7156 NORFOLK ROAD

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this beautifully remodeled home features 3+BR/2BA including a master suite & a large study or den. Fabulous indoor/outdoor living with doors opening to decks, garden & patio.

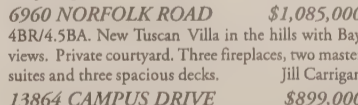
\$789,000

Susie Schevill



1917 ASCOT DRIVE

MORAGA. Gorgeous & sophisticated home. Granite kitchen, updated bathrooms, patios & gardens with serene canyon views. Lovely setting.

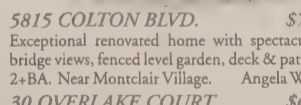


6960 NORFOLK ROAD

4BR/4.5BA. New Tuscan Villa in the hills with Bay views. Private courtyard. Three fireplaces, two master suites and three spacious decks.

\$1,085,000

Jill Carrigan

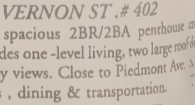


30 OVERLAKE COURT

Remodeled contemporary home with park-like garden and patios. Huge open spaces with wall to wall windows. Nearby secret pathway leads to Thornhill pool.

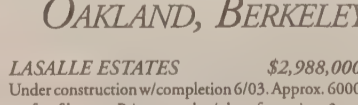
\$625,000

Ed Kuo



500 VERNON ST. #402

This spacious 2BR/2BA penthouse provides one-level living, two large bedrooms, dining & transportation.

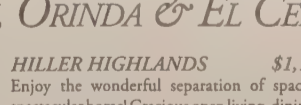


13864 CAMPUS DRIVE

This fabulous 4BR/3BA home features breathtaking serene views. Landscaped grounds, kitchen with island & views, large family room, spacious master suite with sitting area. 3-car garage.

\$899,000

Sherry Benninger

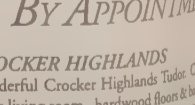


5815 COLTON BLVD.

Exceptional renovated home with spectacular three bridge views, fenced level garden, deck & patio! 3+BR/2+BA. Near Montclair Village.

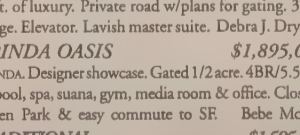
\$759,000

Angela Wei Grubb



6640 SUNNYMERE AVE.

Adorable little Oakland Hills bungalow. Large 2-car garage. In beautiful condition. Opportunity for a first time home buyer.

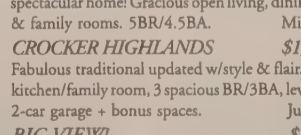


ORINDA OASIS

ORINDA. Designer showcase. Gated 1/2 acre. 4BR/5.5BA, lap pool, spa, suana, gym, media room & office. Close to Tilden Park & easy commute to SF.

\$1,895,000

Bebe McRae

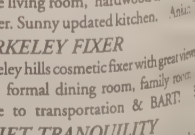


HILLER HIGHLANDS

Enjoy the wonderful separation of space in this spectacular home! Gracious open living, dining kitchen & family rooms. 5BR/4.5BA.

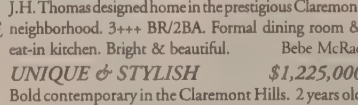
\$1,150,000

Mindy Scott



CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Wonderful Crocker Highlands Tudor home in the living room, hardwood floors & beautiful master. Sunny updated kitchen.

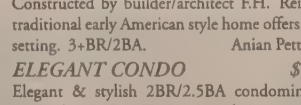


3070 CLAREMONT AVENUE

neighborhood. 3+++ BR/2BA. Formal dining room & eat-in kitchen. Bright & beautiful.

\$1,250,000

Bebe McRae

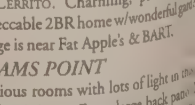


BIG VIEW!

Enjoy spectacular 3 bridge views from this spacious home. Kitchen w/breakfast nook. 4BR/3BA. Family room w/ separate entrance - terrific for au-pair.

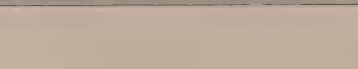
\$939,000

Carolyn Jones



CHARMING & PRIVATE

EL CERRITO. Charming, private level home. Impeccable 2BR home w/wonderful garden. Garage is near Fat Apple's & BART.

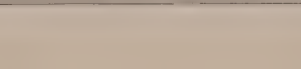


ADAMS POINT

Spacious rooms with lots of light on corner lot. Steel appliances in the kitchen.

\$1,225,000

Carolyn Jones

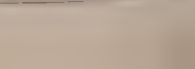


ELEGANT CONDO

Elegant & stylish 2BR/2.5BA condominium near Rockridge & BART. Spacious living room, formal dining room office space & views.

\$705,000

Nancy Lehrkind



CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Wonderful Crocker Highlands Tudor home in the living room, hardwood floors & beautiful master. Sunny updated kitchen.

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BERKELEY, 94705

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965 Shorepoint 314 - \$240,000
1321 Webster #D306 - \$170,000

ALBANY

555 Pierce St #1332 - \$218,000
555 Pierce St #742 - \$257,000
1126 Santa Fe Av - \$327,500

BENKELEY

1839 63rd St - \$345,000
1019 Allston Wy - \$345,000

2956 California St - \$430,000
1709 Derby St - \$420,000
2614 Etna St - \$945,000
1236 Milvia St - \$950,000
1110 Parker St - \$475,000
1390 Queens Rd - \$615,000
2417 Sacramento St - \$352,500
1643 Scenic Av - \$545,000
2554 Virginia St - \$901,000
1401 Walnut St - \$470,000
1231 Ward St - \$437,500
3109 Wheeler St - \$440,000

EL CERRITO

538 Elm St - \$325,000
2231 Spyglass Ln - \$550,000

312 Victoria St - \$377,000

See SALES, Page B16

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138 Wildwood Gardens ~ Piedmont
Architectural 1950's 1-level traditional w/style & sophistication in the prestigious Wildwood Area on apx. 1/3AC. An innovative blend of materials into a flowing, flexible floor plan w/walls of glass, dramatic ceiling heights, generous room sizes, hardwood floors, wonderful flow for indoor/outdoor access & mature gardens. 4BR/3.5BA, library w/built-in bookshelves & fireplace, formal living & dining rooms & updated kitchen. \$1,800,000.

Nancy Rothman

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(510) 654-6878 Residence

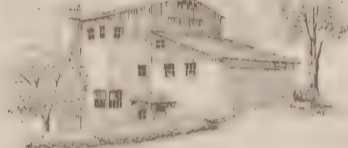
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Auto Plus

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices begin to rise, so do motorists' concerns about fuel economy. A year ago, when gas prices were around \$1.50 a gallon, many motorists were buying gas-saving devices, such as air filters, fuel injectors, and other gadgets, to save money. But now, with gas prices rising again, many motorists are questioning the claims of these devices. Dave Van Sickle, a writer for Auto Plus, says that most of these devices are either ineffective or only provide a very small improvement in fuel economy. He says that the only way to save money on gas is to drive more efficiently, by avoiding idling, using cruise control, and keeping the car well-maintained.



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Tom Keane
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Hills Auto Directory



Sales

FROM PAGE B15

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4313 Santa Rita Rd. • \$365,000

EMERYVILLE

1022 44th St. • \$330,000
8 Captain Dr E353 • \$252,500
6363 Christie 2213 • \$352,000

5855 Horton 402 • \$485,000
5855 Horton 403 • \$330,000
5855 Horton 407 • \$330,000
5855 Horton 517 • \$315,000
5855 Horton 603 • \$230,500
5855 Horton 703 • \$262,000
5855 Horton 706 • \$230,500
5855 Horton 715 • \$350,000
5855 Horton 809 • \$595,000

OAKLAND

1734 100th Av. • \$280,000

2968 107th Av. • \$315,000
917 107th Av. • \$225,000
2630 109th Av. • \$270,000
1645 20th Av. • \$217,000
2122 21st Av. • \$222,000
1224 32nd St. • \$307,500
827 34th Av. • \$375,000
3854 39th Av. • \$495,000
2074 40th Av. • \$325,000
2116 42nd Av. • \$425,000
714 45th St. • \$265,000
539 47th St. • \$305,000
846 53rd St. • \$600,000

809 54th Av. • \$310,000
622 58th St. • \$305,000
758 61st St. • \$545,000
1189 63rd St. • \$305,000
1082 66th St. • \$255,000
962 70th Av. • \$198,000
2742 75th Av. • \$255,000
2833 75th Av. • \$251,000
1300 78th Av. • \$260,000
2400 82nd Av. • \$415,000
1934 87th Av. • \$235,000
1335 93rd Av. • \$285,000
1073 Aileen St. • \$475,000

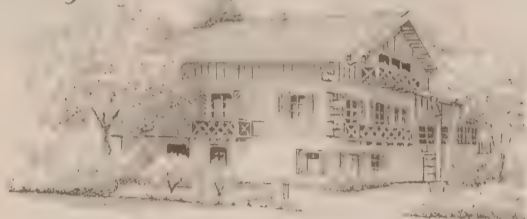
4728 Allendale Av. • \$472,000
1003 Armita Dr. • \$725,000
5928 Ascot Dr. • \$675,000
5334 Broadway • \$551,000
3937 Brown Av. • \$550,000
6512 Buena Ventura • \$420,000
9614 C St. • \$300,000
320 Caldecott 132 • \$245,000
5760 Chelton Dr. • \$595,000
1421 Comstock • \$350,000
10591 Creekside • \$280,000
3311 East 17th St. • \$360,000
2215 East 19th St. • \$118,000

2206 East 19th St. • \$1336 East 20th St.

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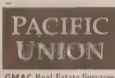
THE WILLIAM REES HOUSE, c. 1906

From the office of Bernard Maybeck, this historic North Berkeley residence received the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Renovation and Restoration in 1991.

Offered at \$1,950,000



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88 Sea View Avenue, Piedmont

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Represented the Buyers



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Photo Tour

Open House - Sunday, 3/23 & 3/30 (from 2-4:30pm)



588 - 6 1st STREET Offered at \$449,000

Centrally located in a quiet North Oakland neighborhood, this beautifully renovated bungalow offers a fully updated kitchen & bathroom and superb architectural details. Ashby or Rockridge BART, College Ave, UC Berkeley, freeways and Downtown Oakland are just minutes away.

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Formal Dining Room
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Alameda	Alameda	Alameda	Berkeley	Castro Valley
\$1,395,000 591 Crendon Cir 4BD/4BA Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-814-4711 Harbor Bay Realty, Judy Jacobs	\$453,800 603 Centre Court 2bd Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay 510-864-2024 510-337-9413 Kane & Associates David Gunderman, Alan Lertzman	\$585,000 1317 East Shore Dr 3bd/2ba Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1131 Gallagher & Lindsey, Dorothy Franchi	\$409,000 1405 Berkeley Way 2+BD/1BA Sun 1-5pm 510-547-5970 x35 Lawton Associates, Ron Kriss	\$669,000 22770 Rancho Pkwy Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates
\$235,000 965 Shorepoint Ct #113 1bd/1ba Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1137 Gallagher & Lindsey Troy Staten	\$455,000 1846 Eight Street 3BD Sun 2-4 Bayside Real Estate 510-865-2800 Lisa Lawley	\$599,000 1804 San Jose Ave 3BD/1.5BA Sun 2-4 Gold Coast 510-748-5300 The Homes-Link Team	\$450,000 2145 Sacramento St 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-558-3464 Miller & Company, Mimi Miller	\$339,950 Open Sun 1:30-4 Day & Night Realty
\$249,000 1711 Third 2+BD/1BA Sat & Sun 2-4 510-523-1144 510-814-4892 Harbor Bay Realty Tere Lee Eunice Edwards	\$455,000 3014 San Jose 2+bd Sat & Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-523-0746 Kane & Associates Mindy Hart	\$756,880 3 Oyster Shoals 4+bd/3ba Sun2-4:30 Bay Farm island 510-337-9670 Prudential CA Realty Lillian Liao	\$469,000 1216 Parker 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-527-2700 X327 Marvin Gardens, David Bigelow	\$371,000 1366 34th St. Sat & Sun 12-5 Harbor Bay Realty
\$315,000 955 Shorepoint Ct #106 2bd Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-522-1175 510-814-4871 Kane & Associates Betty Sewell	\$464,500 232 Santa Clara Ave 2BD/1BA Sat & Sun 2-4 510-523-1144 510-814-4845 Harbor Bay Realty Tere Lee Marilyn Pomeroy	\$795,000 2943 Southwood Dr 3+bd/2+ba Sun 2-4 510-523-8555 510-748-1170 Ritz Real Estate George Borikas	\$485,000 1215 Burnett St 3 BD/1.5 Sun 2-4 510-527-2700 X31 Marvin Gardens, Juliana Wenberg	\$349,000 1366 34th St. Sat & Sun 12-5 Harbor Bay Realty
\$369,000 2515 Central Ave #104 2bd/2ba Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1137 Gallagher & Lindsey Sheila McNeill	\$479,000 1130 Otis Dr 4BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4875 Deldre Dixon	\$850,000 2985 Northwood Dr 3bd/2.5ba Sat & Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1170 Gallagher & Lindsey, John Selback	\$499,000 3047 Wheeler 2BD/1BA Sun 1-4 510-524-9888 x20 Berkeley Hills Realty, Nancy Mueller	\$371,000 2 Admiral Dr Sun 2-4 510-748-1137 Gallagher & Lindsey Katherine Basora
\$395,000 1027 Eagle Ave 2bd/1ba Sat 1-4, Sun 1-5 510-337-9670 Prudential CA Realty J. Abbott - F. Szeto	\$480,000 2518 Lincoln 3bd Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-508-1215 Kane & Associates John McNulty	\$859,000 30 Evans Court 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4710 Walt Jacobs	\$595,000 47 Canyon Rd. 3 BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 510-526-7055 RED OAK, Francine Di Palma	\$440,000 1250 Powell Rd Sun 11-4 510-649-9900 Maison Nouvelle
\$395,000 3234 Adams St 2bd/1ba Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-814-4871 Harbor Bay Realty Denise Bowes-Garvine	\$489,000 1130 High Street 3BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4878 Karlin Ingeman Fox	\$899,000 17 Memury Ct 4BD/3BA Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4892 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty, Eunice Edwards Ringo Liu	\$599,000 6 Arcade Ave. 2+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1336 Pacific Union R.E., Jack McPhail	\$476,000 1970 Barton Way Sun 10-5 Assist2Sell, Howard Kane
\$399,000 513 Willow Street 2BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4713 Russ Grant	\$495,500 220 Santa Clara Ave 3bd/1.5ba Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1132 Gallagher & Lindsey Dennis Keefe	\$349,000 711 Buchanan 2 BD/2 BA Sun 1-5 510-527-2700 X39 Marvin Gardens, Meridee Carter	\$745,000 2441 Carleton St 3+BD/1+BA Open 2-4:30 (S. Campus) 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker, Dell Orr	\$369,777 106 Dartford Security Pacific, Leslie Dope
\$419,000 450 Cola Ballena #E 2+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Manhattan Real Estate 510-444-9300	\$519,000 3322 Fernside 2+bd Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-865-7239 Kane & Associates Kathy Ratto	\$449,000 937 Talbot Ave 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-524-8508 Jeans Realty, Diane Sindel-Deutsche	\$748,000 55 Rock Lane, 3 BD/2 BA Sun 2-5 510-945-0211 Prudential, Nancy Taussig	\$439,000 407 Berkeley Park Sun 2-4 510-559-2510 Marvin Gardens, Barbara Kaplan
\$425,000 621 Taylor St 3+BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-522-7173 George Williams	\$525,000 546 Quens 3BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 510-814-4893 Harbor Bay Realty, Kathy Bell-Mathy	\$450,000 929 Kains St... 3 BD/ Sun 2-4 510-280-2117 RED OAK, Marc Guay	\$749,000 1037 Siler Place 3BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co., Annie Walrand	\$749,000 2821-23 Palm Ct 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-280-2117 RED OAK, Betsy Thagard
\$429,000 812 Haight 2bd Sat & Sun 2-4 510-521-1257 510-521-1647 Bayside Real Estate Nissa Dash Quinn Stone	\$535,000 441 Whitehall 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4874 Mark Playsted	\$589,000 1053 Peralta Ave 3 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2177 RED OAK, Merritt Levine	\$789,000 7156 Norfolk Rd. 3+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co., S. Schevill & A. Van Duke	\$299,000 1965 Ascot Dr Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4200 Prudential-Montclair, Eric Johnson
\$439,000 1520 3rd St. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4885 Jeffery Goodman	\$538,000 21 Britt Ct 3bd Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay 510-273-9444 Kane & Associates Uli LiRosi	\$620,000 506 Kains Avenue 3BD/2BA Sun 12-4pm 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell East Bay, Tony Wright	\$850,000 111 Tamalpais Rd. 5BD/3.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co., Susie Schevill	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$441,000 909 San Antonio Ave 2bd/1ba Sun 2-4 openhomesalameda.com 510-748-1166 510-748-1133 Gallagher & Lindsey, Coqui Basora or Stephanie Neher	\$549,000 23 Damon Court 3BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay 510-523-1115 Property Investment Services Victor Jin	\$349,000 1476 Tenth St. 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau	\$850,000 80 Codornices Rd. 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co., Bebe McRae	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$444,000 15 2 Centre Court 2BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle 510-521-1177 Windermere Properties, East Bay, Peter Fletcher	\$549,000 924 Versailles 3BD/1.5BA Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-521-5924 Alameda Realty Jim Mangiapane	\$349,000 4th St 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau	\$899,000 7164 Buckingham 3 BD/3 BA Sun 2-4:30 510-845-0211 Prudential, Sharon Ho	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$449,000 119 Maitland 3BD Sat & Sun 2-4 Bay Farm 510-483-1676 510-919-5485 Kane & Associates, Krystyna Knowak, John Bergman	\$550,000 1712 San Jose Ave 2BD/1.5BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4823 George Muhr Nancy Brandt	\$375,000 1410 Derby Street 2 bd/1 ba Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley 510-339-8400 Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett.com	\$925,000 2806 Prince 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1303 Pacific Union R.E., Nancy Noman	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$449,000 1541 C Santa Clara 2+BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4846 Janice Payne	\$569,500 211 Sheffield Rd 3BD/2BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-523-1144 Tom Young	\$389,000 921 Bancroft Way 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-849-9900 RED OAK, Sara Garabedian	\$975,000 621 Arlington Ave. 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1303 Pacific Union R.E., Wendy Gardner	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$449,000 3223 Encinal Ave 2bd/1.25ba Sun 2-5 510-769-1606 510-814-4829 Bickley Real Estate John Bickley	\$570,000 422 Sheffield Rd 3BD/2BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4814 Connie Hanna	\$399,000 921 Bancroft Way 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-849-9900 RED OAK, Sara Garabedian	\$975,000 621 Arlington Ave. 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1303 Pacific Union R.E., Wendy Gardner	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer
\$449,900 917 Centennial 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4829 Margaret Lomba	\$575,000 7 Argus Ct 3BD/2.5BA Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4824 510-814-4817 Harbor Bay Realty Darin Vinal Tim Marr	\$399,000 921 Bancroft Way 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-849-9900 RED OAK, Sara Garabedian	\$975,000 621 Arlington Ave. 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1303 Pacific Union R.E., Wendy Gardner	\$1,085,000 6960 Norfolk Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands Coldwell Banker, Lydia Meyer

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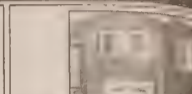
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A Better Mortgage 800-711-0027 DREW01162773 Fees=\$1969	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.820...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.960...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.260...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.830...30	Credit problems ok. Open weekends. 2nd mortgages/Equity lines available. www.westcoastfinancial.net
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Bay Area Olympic Funding 888-833-1000 DREW01197415 Fees=\$1685	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.514...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.888...30	3-1 Fix Pay Jmb*	25-6 INT ONLY JMB	5-1 INTEREST ONLY MEGA LINE Above the rest! 3bd, 2ba, rare master bedroom w/wood floors, covered patio, fully landscaped, maple cabinetry. Formal dining room.
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California Mtge. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI x000 DREW01170868 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.800...1.000 5.725...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.835...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.750...0.625 3.835...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.500 4.705...30	DIRECT LENDER -CAMS TO 1-800-451-1111 WWW.CALMTG.COM
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Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DREW00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.875...0.000 5.967...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.093...30	15-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.402...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.088...30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, divorce loans our specialty. all types of loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction
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Omni Funding Services 800-303-8887 DREW01183656 Fees=\$2051	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.500 5.881...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.600 5.992...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.500 5.092...30	5/1 ARM 4.250...1.500 4.126...30	-www.24hourloancenter.com Check our website for more rates! We are committed to EXCELLENCE!
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DREW01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.729...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.925...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.867...30	3/1 ARM 3.750...0.000 3.844...30	See Habla Espanol! 100% purchase loans. Credit Problems OK.
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DREW0130398 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.559...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.776...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.825...0.000 4.245...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 4.023...30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays 9-5, evenings 6-9 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 10% lower.
ProMortgage 877-552-2700 DREW01230152 Fees=\$1481	30-yr Fixed 5.875...0.000 5.946...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.906...45	15-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.426...45	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250...0.000 5.279...45	Record Low Rates Won't Last! Call David Harley Now Local Lender - Corte Madera, CA
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-8266 DREW01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.810...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.025...45	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.108...45	5/1 ARM 4.375...0.000 3.990...45	GOOD CREDIT HAS ITS REWARD! Check loans after 2nd Mortgage. Upfront Fees. Saratogabancorp.com
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DREW01101940 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.620...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.810...45	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 4.910...45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.230...45	Refi. purchase or consolidate now. No Doc Loans M.F. 7:00 a.m. Sat-Sun 7:00 a.m.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT RATES... AND MUCH MORE

www.mtginfo.com/cct

- Learn about each lender's products & services
- Learn about closing costs and types of loans
- Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- Email questions/comments
- Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- Prequalify preapproval

Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$322,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are subject to credit review and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock-rate period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" to contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781.276.1711

AGE 83
 Dorado 207 - \$289,500
 Fairhill Ct - \$620,000
 Florida St - \$379,500
 Florida St - \$450,000
 Foothill Bl - \$217,000
 Frances 2 - \$225,000
 Franklin 323 - \$370,000
 Glascock 101 - \$305,000
 Glascock 112 - \$390,500
 Grand View - \$1,775,000
 Hanly Rd - \$480,500
 Harrison St - \$375,000
 Harnett St - \$375,000
 Howell St - \$495,000
 Jayne Av - \$207 - \$215,000
 Jean St #428 - \$182,000
 Kingsland Av - \$388,500
 Lambert St - \$806,000
 Longridge - \$1,206,000
 Magellan Dr - \$585,000
 Marlow Dr - \$410,000
 Moraga Av - \$695,000
 Oak Knoll Bl - \$300,000
 Cleveland Av - \$440,000
 Penniman Av - \$215,000
 Plymouth St - \$325,000
 Renwick St - \$210,000
 Ryer Av - \$419,000
 Salem St - \$446,000
 School St - \$315,000
 Seneca St - \$335,000
 Elmhurst - \$100,000
 Sunnyhills Rd - \$685,000
 Taylor Av - \$270,000
 Thornhill Dr - \$645,000
 Tucker St - \$308,000
 Tulip Av - \$300,000
 Vallecito Pl - \$206,500
 Van Mourik Av - \$349,500
 Verman St #207 - \$375,000
 Verman St #212 - \$216,000
 Verman St #304 - \$265,000
 Weybridge Ct - \$760,000

AGE 83
 Landa Av - \$455,000
 Winsor Av - \$900,000

AGE 83
 16th St - \$265,000

638 19th St - \$350,000
 419 24th St - \$475,000
 329 7th St - \$280,000
 5433 Amend Rd - \$475,000
 2712 Barnard Dr - \$330,000
 2911 Barrett Av - \$385,000
 377 Beck St - \$195,000
 3161 Birmingham 202 - \$216,000
 4891 Buckboard - \$480,000
 5213 Buckboard - \$458,000
 2355 Bush Av - \$244,000
 500 Deer Park Dr - \$483,500
 502 Deer Park Dr - \$447,000
 9 Harbor View Dr - \$560,000
 1421 Hayes St - \$285,000
 1914 Hellings Av - \$292,000
 2450 Homestead Cr - \$450,000
 2722 Humphrey Av - \$210,000
 3039 Joann Dr - \$313,000
 966 McLaughlin St - \$290,000
 814 Meadow View - \$502,000
 1401 Merced St - \$224,000
 2961 Mullens Dr - \$320,000
 2616 Ohio Av - \$292,000
 25 Overlook Ln - \$279,000
 6224 Plymouth - \$401,000
 631 Rock Rose Wy - \$590,000
 643 Rock Rose Wy - \$546,500
 333 Sanford Av - \$260,000
 1511 Santa Clara - \$400,000
 46 Seabreeze Dr - \$599,000
 34 Seagull Dr - \$440,000
 8 Seagull Dr - \$452,500
 1518 Visalia Av - \$268,000
 3604 Waller Av - \$250,000
 700 Williams Dr - \$205,000

SAN LEANDRO

1392 145th Av - \$300,000
 1259 Alden Creek Cr - \$549,000
 16083 Berkshire Rd - \$355,000
 428 Caliente Dr - \$257,000
 4046 Carmel Wy - \$378,000
 1935 Dolly Av - \$374,000
 14835 E. 14th St #8 - \$270,000
 16782 Ehle St - \$230,000
 340 Garcia Av - \$341,000
 16947 Los Reyes Av - \$350,000
 14240 Nassau Rd - \$380,000
 14388 Outrigger Dr - \$352,000
 1939 San Rafael St - \$360,000
 435 Teola Ct - \$604,000
 15488 Tern Ct - \$435,000
 2170 Thomas Av - \$365,000
 548 White Fir Dr - \$389,000

SAN LORENZO

1867 Corte Enano - \$320,000
 981 Delano St - \$429,000
 1321 Jacqueline Pl - \$248,000
 15572 Usher St - \$312,500
 1027 Via Palma - \$345,000
 15947 Via Pinal - \$355,000
 17335 Via Rincon - \$280,000

By the numbers**ALAMOTA**

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$120,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$865,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$352,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$404,231

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$218,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$327,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$257,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$267,500

BURLY

TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST PRICE: \$345,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$950,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$547,929

EL CERRILLO

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$550,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$377,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$417,333

EL MORANTE

TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$365,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 12
 LOWEST PRICE: \$230,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$595,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$338,542

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 86
 LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,775,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$401,174

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$455,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$900,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$677,500

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 37
 LOWEST PRICE: \$195,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$599,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$330,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$365,203

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 17
 LOWEST PRICE: \$230,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$604,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$360,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$369,941

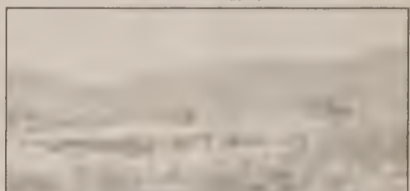
SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 7
 LOWEST PRICE: \$248,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$429,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$320,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$327,071

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

**476 Breed Avenue**

Single level Mediterranean with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, approx. 1700 sq. ft. Offering charm, simplicity & graceful appeal. Lg. formal living rm. & dining rm. w/built-ins. Lg. country style kitchen & nook, family rm. w/2nd wood burning fireplace.

**725 Dutton Avenue**

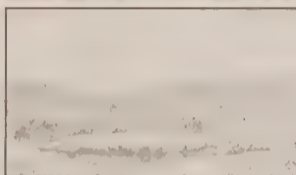
STYLE - QUALITY - VALUE! Custom 3 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom step-saving rancher spread out over 2000 sq. ft. settled on 9800 sq. sun filled lot! Complete with detached approx. 650 sq. au-pair-in-law unit. Offering style & elegance and parklike setting with plenty of room to roam, play and entertain. Colorful, landscaped rear yard provides mellow brick covered patio and gazebo, surrounded by lush green lawn.

DEREK RINETTI

(510) 568-6171 (Office)
 (510) 636-6000 (Direct)
 email: RinettiCo@aol.com

Rinetti & Co

598 Victoria Circle
 San Leandro, CA 94577
 (510) 568-6171

Open Sunday, 3/23/03, 1-4**1180 Begier Avenue**

Split level 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, approx. 2100 sq. ft. Welcome to the warmth of Estudillo Estates... Tree lined streets & well manicured yards. A home offering simple opulence with remodeled eat-in kitchen, formal living & dining room, & cozy-comfort family room.

DEREK RINETTI

(510) 568-6171 (Office)
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 email: RinettiCo@aol.com

Rinetti & Co

598 Victoria Circle
 San Leandro, CA 94577
 (510) 568-6171

**1553 Glen Drive**

Level entry, shutter trimmed bungalow with Colonial styling & appeal. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bathroom, approx. 1450 sq. ft. Sun filled fully equipped tiled eat-in kitchen. Spacious formal living room, w/wood burning fireplace and formal separate dining room with built-ins under window seat. Roomy master bedroom & updated bathroom. Private, homey backyard complete with covered patio & rustic brick fireplace & BBQ.

Staten hosts homebuyer's workshop

GALLAGHER & LINDSEY

Gallagher & Lindsey Realtor
 Staten will host a free homebuyer workshop with
 mortgage from Bank of America
 tomorrow from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Bank of
 America, 1500 Park St. in
 Staten.

"You will discover that it is easier to buy a home than you think. Find out how your dream of buying a home can blossom into reality," said Staten.
 "If you own a home and are thinking of getting a larger home, I have expertly represented people in realizing their

dream. At this workshop you'll get step-by-step tips to nurture your goals."
 Buyers will get information about how to begin, find out how much cash they will need and learn about credit and qualifying for a loan. Reserve your seat by calling 510-748-1125.

Open Sunday 1-4**8627 Thors Bay Road, El Cerrito****\$875,000**

This lovely custom 4 bedroom, 3+ bath contemporary home offers a panoramic three bridge view of the bay. A new gourmet kitchen provides only top of the line appliances, beautiful granite countertops and eating area. The sunken living room is spacious with open beam ceilings, fireplace and random plank floors.

Prudential
 California Realty

Carol Heath-Kim
 (510) 525-2346



★ **NEW BERKELEY LISTING!** ★
 Open House - Sunday, March 23, 2003 1-5pm ★★



Berkeley
1405 Berkeley Way
Offered \$409,000

Charming Starter Bungalow

Ready to own a wonderful home in a dynamic neighborhood. This stucco bungalow features 2+ bedrooms, remodeled "period" style bathroom. There are gleaming hardwood floors, a warm wood burning fireplace, and great architectural detailing. Crown molding, arched windows, a built-in hutch and bookcase are the interior of this home really sing. The plus room is perfect for a home office or could be used as the bedroom/guestroom. A huge family style kitchen and dining room combo is the heart of this home, with painted wood cabinets, a cool of wedgewood stove and butcher block countertops. The back yard is a pleasant space with room to garden and relax. It is storage under the home in the crawl space and the laundry room is large enough for double duty as a craft room for the young one's or?

This neighborhood is really central to just about everything, including BART, ACME, great shopping and dining on University Ave., 4th St. and all the best in the city including buckets of Great Coffee. You wouldn't even need a car if you live here.

Ron Kriss, Realtor®/Partner
 510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

Online Tour @ www.1405BerkeleyWay.com

**Lillie Brady Sold These Distinctive Properties**

Berkeley: Arch Street
 Berkeley: Grizzly Peak
 Berkeley: Oak Street
 Oakland: Valley View
 San Leandro: Cherrywood

Please call me for a free appraisal and expert tips for readying your home for sale.

Lillie Brady,

Fine Homes Specialist Top Producer 1996-2002
 510-644-5262

www.brady.com

email: lillie@brady.com



"Your profits will bloom with Lillie"

**Glass/Sabine Your Fine Homes Specialists****Coming Soon... 5427 Carlton Offered at \$599,000**

You will be delighted with this charming home located in the coveted ROCKRIDGE District. The splendid front garden is a true gardener's paradise. The versatile floorplan and light-filled rooms make this a truly special residence.

OPEN SUNDAY MARCH 30TH, 2-4:30 P.M.

Just Sold 5922 Acacia Avenue Offered at \$1,595,000

This elegant ROCKRIDGE Medit. with its exceptional architecture, landscaped courtyard and easy flow of living sold quickly and over the asking price.

Some people stage...we create magic...you get results.

For further details, call Glass/Sabine at 510-326-5055 or 428-0900.
 We invite you to visit our web site at GlassSabine.com



JUDITH GLASS
 510.326.7929
 SHEILA SABINE
 510.326.5055

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COLDWELL BANKER

NORTH OAKLAND

Spring has sprung and it's time for a fresh start! Coldwell Banker has a large selection of available homes just waiting for you. Visit any of our Northern California offices for more details on Spring Open Home Festival and you may be settling into your new home before the summer heat begins!

Visit us at this special place at Home

Spring has sprung and the housing market is buzzing!

THE SPRING OPEN HOME FESTIVAL



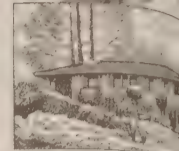
PIEDMONT PINES \$1,149,750
6733 Longwalk Dr. Sun 2-4:30
3 BR 3.5 BA New construction-true quality. Mediterranean-style villa. Bay views, chef's kitchen, nearly-level yard area, tranquil creek setting, great privacy.
David Eckert 510.339.4700



HILLER HIGHLANDS \$1,050,000
6750 Charing Cross Rd. Sun 2-4:30
4 BR 3 BA Custom-built contemporary. Volume ceilings, spacious kitchen, roomy bedrooms, family room. 2FP, FDR, serene master w/paired baths & slate floors.
Lydia Nayo 510.339.4700



OAKLAND \$1,166,000
6167 Ocean View Dr. Sun 1-4
4 BR 2.5 BA 8 rooms. Upper Rockridge. Claremont Pines. Born 1993, this stately traditional 2-story home offers amenities, customizations & touches Views of hills.
Casey Asche 510.486.1495



BERKELEY \$530,000
530 Woodmont 3 BR 2 BA 2 1/2 baths. Approx. 7,000 sq. ft. w/ hardwood floors, indoor-outdoor flow, etc.
Linda Gerson

OPENS

CLAREMONT HILLS
7112 Westmoreland Sun 2-4:30 \$969,000
4+ BR 3.5 BA Back on market-huge price reduction. New construction. Bay views, gourmet kitchen, lavish master suite, private guest quarters, high-end finishes.
David Eckert 510.339.4700

ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$839,000
23 Buena Vista Pl Sun 2-5
2 BR 2 BA studio apt. Sunny 1918 Medit. Bay view! Nice details. Vaulted ceiling LR, FDR, FP, HWE, newer kit, HWE, nice FP, gar.
Photos: rubyang.com
Ruby Ng 510.339.4700

CLAREMONT HILLS \$795,000
7245 Buckingham Blvd. Sun 2-4:30
4 BR 3 BA Sun 6-bright Contemp. Fabulous space for entertaining. Open floor plan creates terrific flow; generous 2-car garage; Some views too! Don't miss!
Karen Lum 510.339.4700

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$659,000
706 Mandana Blvd. Sun 2-4:30
3+ BR 1.5 BA Spacious charming Craftsman with large living room, formal dining, country kitchen, recreation room, plus room, sunny yard, patio, garden, lawn.
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700

OKAMORE \$649,000
1916 Oak Crest Dr. Sun 2-5
3+ BR 2 BA Traditional, elegant 1940's home w/style! Updated kitchen, FDR, MBR w/FP, HWE. Beautiful yard w/outdoor fireplace & hot tub! Great location!
Bonnie Ross 510.339.4700

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$539,000
4315 Atlas Ave. Sun 2-5
2+ BR 1 BA Charming Traditional waiting for you! Formal living and dining room; big deck off kitchen; large extra space down.
Carol Brown 510.339.4700

BERKELEY \$499,000
1227 Neilson St. Sun 2-5
2 BR 1 BA Westbrae gem beautifully remodeled. Newly redone hwd flrs, trlp, new kitchen & bath, new wood windows. French doors to Mediterranean veranda/garden.
Josh Whitmer 510.486.1495

OAKLAND HILLS \$439,000
6020 Leona St. Sun 1-4:30
3+ BR 1 full BA + 2 half Custom home w/arts & crafts features; bonus room & workshop; landscaped front/back yard; garage w/interior access; FP, HWE; mature oaks; peek of Bay.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

OPENS

ROCKRIDGE \$439,000
4912 Lawton Ave. Sun 1-4:30
4 BR 2 BA Spacious older 2-story Farmhouse near Rockridge amenities! Special & unusual; freshly painted; many upgrades. Small lot, but very private setting.
Andy Usher 510.339.4700

BERKELEY \$375,000
2619 Etna St. C Sun 2-4
2 BR 1.5 BA Townhome in super Elmwood location. Fireplace, deck, laundry, parking. Close to UC, shopping & transportation.
Maxine Malberg 510.486.1495

PILL HILL \$375,000
371 30th St. Sun 1-5
1 BR 1 BA New condominium. 9' ceilings, HWE, granite & stainless steel kitchens, German & Italian fixtures, washer/dryer hook-ups, garage.
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$359,000
8930 Seneca St. Sun 1-4:30
2+ BR 1 BA Gorgeous Bungalow-wooded setting. Bonus room with 1BR/1BA & private deck. Refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted inside & out.
Nomi Robinson 510.339.4700

MAXWELL PARK \$329,000
5563 Brookdale Ave. Sun 2-5
2 BR 1 BA Cute Bungalow w/built-ins, large eat-in kitchen, FDR, sep. laundry; fresh paint; great floor plan; deck & fenced yard - move right in!
Judy Ackerman 510.339.4700

PILL HILL \$250,000
371 30th St. Sun 1-5
1 BR 1 BA New condominium. 9' ceilings, HWE, granite & stainless steel kitchens, German & Italian fixtures, washer/dryer hook-ups, garage.
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

FIRST OPENS

BERKELEY (SOUTH CAMPUS) \$745,000
2441 Carleton St. Sun 2-4:30
3+ BR 1+ BA This 1912 Tudor is near campus, restaurants & shops. Enjoy HWE, formal living & dining, attic, large extra space, charming staircase & serene garden.
Dell Orr 510.339.4700

FIRST OPENS

CROCKER HIGHLANDS
1224 Holman Rd. Sun 2-5
3+ BR 1.5 BA Stunning Old World charm w/charming home circa 1923; renovated kitchen & baths; deck & lawn.
Ellen Lancaster

MONTCLAIR
22 Chambers Lane Sun 2-4
4 BR 2 BA Mid-Century Modern home w/walls of glass, plan, level deck/garden entry, large, living room, 2-car garage, serene local.
Lydia Nayo

CHINA HILL \$1,166,000
364 Lester Ave. Sun 1-5
2+ BR 2 BA Versatile floor plan; main level 2BR/1BA used as master suite; separate in-law w/kitchen & bath.
Donna Conroy

MILLSMONT
3620 Seminary Ave. Sun 1-4:30
2+ BR 2 BA Tudor-style home on upper Seminary. Day windows, upgraded kitchen, both electrical & large master room. 2 FP, HWE, eat-in kitchen.
Victor Ratto

ALBANY
1044 Masonic Ave. Sun 2-4
2 BR 1 BA Home sweet Albany home! Charming/bright Spacious & light-filled! Basement & detached garage. *Upgrades* More Info: iMakeU.com
Bobbie Giarratana

MAXWELL PARK
2478 Cole St. Sun 2-5
3+ BR 2 BA Inviting 1918 Craftsman - great hwd flrs, HWE, FP, built-ins, nice kitchen, FDR, cozy sun room to enjoy. Detached garage.
Terry Anthony

MAXWELL PARK
2607 Kingsland Sun 1-4
2 BR 1 BA Charming Bungalow, nice hwd flrs, sun room, yard, fruit trees, convenient location, upgrades!
Jeffrey Needleman

ALLENDALE
3724 Brookdale Ave. Sun 2-5
2+ BR 1 BA Wonderful Craftsman w/Artist's Studio! Light breakfast nook, FDR, living room w/FP, HWE, Lush roses, gardenia, fruit trees.
Adele M. Wong

Montclair



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510-339-8400 or 510-339-4000

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Open Sunday
March 23, 2-4:30

FEATURED PROPERTY



SOMETHING FOR EVERY CONNOISSEUR \$559,000
Walkers, runners, gardeners, coffee lovers this house is for you! Charming Bungalow with large back yard opening to Plot B Park, bistro kitchen. Minutes to Lake, Peet's and theater. Easy SF commute. 687 Mandana Blvd
Jennie Lippincott (510) 339-8400

UPDATED IN UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$779,000
Spacious updated home with newer kitchen and baths, hardwood floors and fireplace. Enchanting garden and filtered Bay view. Open 2-5pm 5229 Harbord Dr.
Michael Thompson (510) 339-8400



MINUTES FROM MONTCLAIR VILLAGE \$549,000
Drive less, live more in this secluded 3BR/2BA home convenient to everything & freeway access. Enjoy your park like setting on the new deck or brick patio. The living room with skylight is bright and cheery. Wood windows throughout, top of the line kitchen w/granite countertops, master suite w/own bath. Open 1-4:30pm
1796 Woodhaven Way
Nahid Nassiri (510) 339-8400

Open Sunday
March 23, 2-4:30

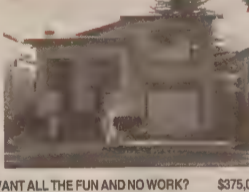
JUST STEPS FROM REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK \$529,000
Stunning Contemporary split level 3BR/2BA w/vaulted ceilings & huge windows. Cozy up to the fireplace or relax on one of 3 new decks. Attractive kitchen, formal dining room.
9229 Skyline Blvd
Nahid Nassiri (510) 339-8400



SUNNY AND DELIGHTFUL \$479,000
This charming Glenview home offers the sweet scent of a lovely garden and updated kitchen with breakfast room and formal dining. 4001 Elston Ave
PatriciaBennett.com (510) 339-8400

EXTRAORDINARY VALUE \$399,000
Don't miss the irresistible blend of traditional charm & selective updates in this unusual split-level 3 bedroom home at the Emeryville corridor. Convenient to Powell Street Plaza & Bay Street shops. 5901 San Pablo Ave
Rosemary Greene (510) 339-4000

2 HOUSES IN 1 LOT \$388,000
Very rare to find, good for owner. Live one rent other. Open 2-4pm. 5054 Bancroft Ave.
Loc Nguyen (510) 339-4000

Open Sunday
March 23, 2-4:30

WANT ALL THE FUN AND NO WORK? \$375,000
This bright, cheerful Berkeley home has been rejuvenated with new foundation, new hardwood, new central heat and updated kitchen and bath! Move right in and enjoy the huge back yard for loads of summer fun.
1410 Derby Street, Berkeley
PatriciaBennett.com (510) 339-8400

CHARMING BUNGALOW \$268,000
Charming Bungalow with remodeled hardwood floors. Huge backyard. Open 2-4pm.
5060 Bancroft Ave.
Loc Nguyen (510) 339-4000

PANORAMIC BAY VIEWS, NEW LISTING! \$249,000
1BR/1BA condo, minutes from Piedmont Ave shops, cafes, markets and movies. Very desirable building. 1 Kelton Ct, Unit 5B
Nahid Nassiri (510) 339-8400

A GREAT STARTER HOME \$145,000
Quiet and spacious condo overlooking the courtyard and pool. Fresh paint, new carpet, and new floor. Close to shopping and BART. Open 1:30-4:30pm.
4888 Clayton Rd, #17, Concord
Allan Tran (510) 339-4000

By Appointment

QUIET AND SERENE \$1,229,000
Westside Alamo, rural country road, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths plus separate office, hardwood floors, newer roof and windows, huge country kitchen, 3,000 square feet, 1/2 acre with pool and spa...loaded with amenities!
Danville Better Homes (925) 837-2200

By Appointment

VIEWS! POOL & SPA! \$969,000
Beltencourt Ranch gem! 4 bedroom + den, 3 baths, 3 fireplaces, 3 car garage! Private, court street! Large 0.21 acre lot-room for a pool! Views! Immaculate! Upgrades include: wood floors, window coverings & more! Approximately 3488 square feet. Hurry!
Danville Better Homes (925) 837-2200

IMPECCABLE HOME \$867,000
4 or 5 bedroom home with great floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet island kitchen, beautifully decorated and maintained with quality upgrades. Italian tile flooring, crown moldings, new A/C & heating systems, large master suite, lushly landscaped, 3-car garage, cul-de-sac location.
Danville Better Homes (925) 837-2200

MAGNIFICENT PANORAMIC VIEWS \$799,000
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Between a fixer-upper and this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home! Near park, high school, commute access. Wonderful! 0.20 acre lot. Super large! Two more cars! Hurry!
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Nice 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with vaulted ceilings, oak floors, family room with fireplace & bedroom with huge walk-in closet and bright throughout.
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One unit has 4 bedrooms & 1 unit has 3 bedrooms & 1 bathroom to move in 2043 March 31st.
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Coming

COMING SOON!
Montclair fixer, 2 1/2 plus 1/2
Teresa Chan

Salesian, Piedmont positioned for strong BSAL

By Mike McGreehan
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Last year's North Coast Section Class A championship game ended in controversy for the Holy Names High School softball team as a wild pitch — which the Monarchs claim was a foul tip by Clear Lake's batter — allowed the winning run to score from third base in the bottom of the ninth inning.

BSAL SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Surely, it was a tough loss. If the Monarchs were going to win an NCS title, 2002 was the year to do it.

This year, the Monarchs might consider adopting John Lennon's "Starting Over" as their theme song heading into Bay Shore Athletic League play.

Gone is four-year pitching sensation Laura Ferreira, behind whom the Monarchs scratched their way to the NCS final. Ferreira, who is now at Fresno State, succeeded in spite of little run support.

Ferreira isn't the only player missing from last year's team, as the Monarchs will have to replace their catcher and middle infielders. In addition, coach Vera Arellano did not return, having moved on to College Park in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League. Former assistant Joe Taula takes over.

With Holy Names now in a rebuilding phase, Piedmont and Salesian are expected to return to their customary roles of battling for the top spot in the BSAL. Piedmont has experience and depth,

PREDICTED FINISH

- 1. Salesian
- 2. Piedmont
- 3. Holy Names
- 4. Albany
- 5. John Swett
- 6. St. Patrick
- 7. St. Mary's
- 8. St. Joseph
- 9. Kennedy
- 10. St. Elizabeth

but the Chieftains have sophomore Allison Donnelly, arguably the pitcher most likely to emerge as the league's best this season.

How the rest of the league shakes out is anybody's guess. John Swett lost some key players and has a new coach this year. But don't count the Indians out too soon.

Most expect Albany to have a good team this year. Oh — and don't forget Holy Names.

"I think we can do a lot better than some people think this year," Taula said.

As opposed to the unbalanced league schedule of seasons past, all BSAL teams will play a double round robin. There will be no league playoffs.

A look at this year's BSAL:

Albany

- **COACH:** Becky Hopkirk, second season
- **2002 RECORD:** 4-8 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** SS Kristyn Patterson, 3B Danielle Moore, P Sydney McIver, 1B Sacha Maxwell, OF Lisa Connolly, OF Katie Lommen, OF/2B Vicky Rohrer, 2B Olivia Rivera, 1B/DH Lydia Raya, OF/3B Stephanie Wissler,

OF Lili Nelson, C/DH Elizabeth Ali, OF Julia Granholm

- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** 2B Lexie Cousins, C Leana Petri, P Sarah Dobjenski
- **KEY LOSS:** OF Kendall Becker
- **OUTLOOK:** Last year, the Cougars were a young team playing under a rookie coach. This year's team, which returns 13 players from 2002, has a year's experience under its belt. The Cougars defense is strong and the hitting is starting to come around. Molver has improved. Raya and Ali, both nursing injuries, have to get healthy. This team promises to do well, and a top-three finish is not out of the question.

Holy Names

- **COACH:** Joe Taula, first season
- **2002 RECORD:** 20-4-1, 11-1 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** 1B/C Sarah DiSabatino, 3B Portia Moore, C/OF Ashley Snoddy, SS/2B Patti Archer, P/OF Kate Fratar
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** P Tamani Wells, 2B/SS Erin Archer
- **KEY LOSSES:** P Laura Ferreira, 2B/C Lelei Taula, SS Matt Rodriguez, C Sukai Curtis-Contreras, OF Ramey Marshall
- **OUTLOOK:** It will take a miracle — something along the lines of a complete implosion of both Piedmont and Salesian — for the Monarchs to return to the dominance of 2002. The team did not hit that well last year, but Ferreira was a rare pitching talent. In addition, the Monarchs have to fill other key positions, having graduated their catcher and middle infielders. Still, the Monarchs have the talent to finish in the upper half of the league.

John Swett

- **COACH:** Greg Soria, first season
- **2002 RECORD:** 12-1 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** C Danielle Dutka, OF/P Candace Myers, 1B/P Si-mone Soria, OF Kim Byrne, SS Nikki Byrne, P Kim Lamuth

Joseph had a few games and scrimmages rained out. Freitas would have liked those games; his players need to get in "tip-top shape."

St. Mary's

- **COACH:** Andy Shimabukuro, seventh season
- **2002 RECORD:** 12-12, 8-3
- **TOP RETURNING:** SS Chris Morocco, Sr.; OF Peter McGuinness, Sr.; P Scott Tully, So.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** 3B Andy Lawson, So.; 2B Alex Jensen, Jr.; OF Spencer Wyrton, So.
- **KEY LOSSES:** P Joe Sorno, OF Chase Moore, IF Chris Helfert
- **OUTLOOK:** The Panthers were 3-1-1 in nonleague games, but Shimabukuro has been impressed with his defense and pitching. Also, the team hasn't given up more than three runs per game. Pitching, a problem the last few years, may be good this season. Tully, Lawson and Jensen all can throw, as can senior Tyler Nation. St. Mary's probably won't win league (Shimabukuro picks Albany), but the Panthers always play tough.

St. Patrick

- **COACH:** Korby Altman, ninth season
- **2002 RECORD:** 15-14, 5-6
- **TOP RETURNING:** Util. Will Dunlap Sr.; CF Pat O'Donnell, Sr.; RF Jonathan Wilson, Sr.; P Brett Muratori, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** SS Chris Gallagher, Sr.; 2B Kyle Kesteloot, Jr.; 3B Brandon Kitchen Sr.; P Ryan Weidenmann, Sr.
- **KEY LOSS:** C Kevin Koppie
- **OUTLOOK:** The Bruins have won every game since the basketball season ended. St. Patrick is built around speed — O'Donnell and Wilson are two of the fastest players in the league. Altman says Dunlap, who usually plays left field, is one of the hardest-working players he has seen. Pitching could be a problem. Altman says with a few breaks last season, his team could have been 7-4 or 8-3 in league. With a double round-robin this year, St. Patrick may get those breaks.

Salesian

- **COACH:** Travis Tarchione, eighth season
- **2002 RECORD:** 20-8, 7-5
- **TOP RETURNING:** P Randy Renn, Sr.; OF Kyle Bethel, Sr.; OF Mike Richiuto, Sr.; C Robert Van Looy, Jr.; 2B Chris Greer, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** SS Daniel Moresco, So.; Util. Dominic Barley, So.; OF Nick Farrell, Jr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** 3B Derek Yow, SS Vince Alcaine, 2B Tony Piscitelli, P Nick Bossi
- **OUTLOOK:** Tarchione had to replace practically his entire starting infield but so far it has worked out well, as evidenced by the team's 3-1 nonleague record. Tarchione is surprised at his offense, as the Chieftains have scored 28 runs in four games. They're also playing pretty good defense. Renn is definitely the No. 1 pitcher, but Tarchione will have to find others.

■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** P Monica Silversen, P Kelly Bailey

- **KEY LOSSES:** P Denise Jew, SS Michelle Taniguchi, 3B Tawny Henderson, U Efrilyn Inocencio
- **OUTLOOK:** Sweet might have a tougher row to hoe this year after graduating their top pitcher Jew. Nikki Byrne also missed most of the basketball season with a knee injury. The Indians will need her back as soon as possible. Despite injuries and the losses of key players, Sweet should be better than some other teams in the league. A top-five finish is a reasonable expectation.

Kennedy

- **COACH:** Nikita Williams, second season
- **2002 RECORD:** 1-11 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** 3B Schena Phillips, P Amber Brandt, OF Lontina Williams
- **KEY LOSSES:** OF D'Andrea Walker, C Percilla Perez, 2B Lucy Fuentes, INF/OF Iris Cook
- **OUTLOOK:** The Eagles vied for last place with St. Elizabeth last year. Look for the same to happen this year.

Piedmont

- **COACH:** Lenny Parker, eighth season
- **2002 RECORD:** 6-3 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** CF/P Maggie Hall, IF Caitlin Lyman, OF Erika Tietjen, IF Kendall Kirby, IF Molly Wooster, C Jennifer Woo, P/IF Monica Linzer, OF Chelsea Lindner, P/IF Jessica Bedbrook, C/IF Sally Peterson
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** IF Sally Baker, OF Anna Berger
- **KEY LOSSES:** P Colleen Profumo, SS Samantha Platt
- **OUTLOOK:** Of the Highlanders' 10 returning players, nine are seniors. The only underclassman in the group is Peterson, the sophomore captain. Experience is a major plus. On the field, hitting and defense are the Highlanders' main strengths.

Salesian

- **COACH:** Dolores Bonds, 13th season
- **2002 RECORD:** 10-3 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** P Allison Donnelly, 3B Bethany Clark, 1B Tiffany Spradlin, C Sara Voisey, 2B Kimiko Ramos, SS Jennifer Tutass
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** OF Ariel Salvador, OF Andrea Salvador, OF Priscilla Garcia, INF/P Stephanie Koski
- **KEY LOSSES:** 2B Jocelyn Leche, C Nikki D'Alonzo, OF Adriene Cobos
- **OUTLOOK:** The Chieftains have Donnelly, a good pitcher her first season who looks to be much improved as a sophomore. Bonds says that with Ferreira having graduated from Holy Names, the BSAL teams are "pretty equal" this year. The newcomers are as good as Donnelly's fellow returnees are going to have to do the job at the plate. Could Salesian be a replica of last year's Holy Names team, a light-hitting group that rides the coattails of a dominant pitcher to the NCS playoffs? We'll soon know.

St. Elizabeth

- **COACH:** Dwayne Horgame
- **2002 RECORD:** 0-10 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** OF Angelica Macedon, 3B Krista Venavitez, C Gabby Lajina
- **KEY LOSSES:** P Gabby Gomez, SS Monica Rios, 1B David Mendoza, 3B Marcela Vasquez
- **OUTLOOK:** The Mustangs finished last in the BSAL last year. Look for them to vie with Kennedy for the bottom spot again this year.

St. Joseph

- **COACH:** Charles Hayes, fourth season
- **2002 RECORD:** 4-7 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** C Megan Cavalli, 3B Robin Lee, CF Louise Narona, 1B Vanessa Ramirez, SS Shalay Clark
- **KEY LOSSES:** SS Adriana Diaz
- **OUTLOOK:** The Pilots have four seniors and four juniors. The rest of the ros-

ter is made up of sophomores and freshmen. Nobody on the team has been on the forefront as a pitcher. The team finished sixth in the NCS standings, which was a building year. Donnelly should finish any higher than last year.

St. Mary's

- **COACH:** Mike Sorenson
- **2002 RECORD:** 10-3 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** P Allison Donnelly, 3B Bethany Clark, 1B Tiffany Spradlin, C Sara Voisey, 2B Kimiko Ramos, SS Jennifer Tutass
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** OF Ariel Salvador, OF Andrea Salvador, OF Priscilla Garcia, INF/P Stephanie Koski
- **KEY LOSSES:** 2B Jocelyn Leche, C Nikki D'Alonzo, OF Adriene Cobos
- **OUTLOOK:** The Chieftains have Donnelly, a good pitcher her first season who looks to be much improved as a sophomore. Bonds says that with Ferreira having graduated from Holy Names, the BSAL teams are "pretty equal" this year. The newcomers are as good as Donnelly's fellow returnees are going to have to do the job at the plate. Could Salesian be a replica of last year's Holy Names team, a light-hitting group that rides the coattails of a dominant pitcher to the NCS playoffs? We'll soon know.

St. Patrick

- **COACH:** Rich Gagnier
- **2002 RECORD:** 12-12, 8-3
- **TOP RETURNING:** SS Chris Morocco, Sr.; OF Peter McGuinness, Sr.; P Scott Tully, So.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** 3B Andy Lawson, So.; 2B Alex Jensen, Jr.; OF Spencer Wyrton, So.
- **KEY LOSSES:** P Joe Sorno, OF Chase Moore, IF Chris Helfert
- **OUTLOOK:** The Panthers were 3-1-1 in nonleague games, but Shimabukuro has been impressed with his defense and pitching. Also, the team hasn't given up more than three runs per game. Pitching, a problem the last few years, may be good this season. Tully, Lawson and Jensen all can throw, as can senior Tyler Nation. St. Mary's probably won't win league (Shimabukuro picks Albany), but the Panthers always play tough.

Baseball

FROM PAGE 1

Here's a look at the BSAL:

Albany

- **COACH:** Jim Giblin, second season
- **2002 RECORD:** 19-5, 12-3 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING:** C Ian Gordon, Sr.; 2B Robert Diaz, Sr.; SS Matt Ball, Sr.; P Lou Worth, Sr.; P Tom Coble, Sr.; OF Eddie Izumizaki, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMER:** 3B Alex Peck, Jr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** 3B Tyson Griffin, RF James Izumizaki
- **OUTLOOK:** This team is loaded and returning Gordon, the league's MVP, is a real plus. There is power and speed — Ball and Izumizaki hit 1-2 in the lineup and are quick. Worth and Coble are two top pitchers. And there is coaching experience — Giblin has coached in Albany Little League for seven years and has been associated with the high school program on and off for 12 years. He knows the players. The players know him. The team played together this summer and, in Giblin's words, "they got to know each other." Scary.

John Swett

- **COACH:** Mike Leite, first season
- **2002 RECORD:** 17-7, 5-6
- **TOP RETURNING:** P Tommy Jimenez, Sr.; SS Cole Adams, Sr.; C Ricky Flores, Jr.; P Ed Davila, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** OF T.J. Ratliff, Jr.; Util. James Donahue, So.
- **KEY LOSSES:** C Mike Santos, 2B Steven Delacruz, OF Terrell Harbin
- **OUTLOOK:** The Indians, despite finishing sixth in the BSAL last year, reached the NCS A playoffs. John Swett went 5-0 in nonleague games, beating Acalanes, Berean Christian, Contra Costa Christian, Trinity Prep and North Hills-Valejo. Leite, who was the varsity coach at Hercules last year, has been pleased by his infield and pitching so far. "With three pitchers (Jimenez, Flores, Davila), we have a good chance to win," he said.

Kennedy

- **COACH:** Nicolas Salibrici, first season
- **2002 RECORD:** 5-12, 1-10
- **TOP RETURNING:** 1B Paul Webster, Jr.; Util. Aaron Miles, Jr.; OF Ryan Eleck, Sr.; SS Anthony Brandt, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** 3B Raymond Chapman, So.; 2B Anthony Figueroa, Sr.; OF Dante Evans, Fr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** C Louis Montgomery, OF Quinton Gaither, OF Jaymay Fisher
- **OUTLOOK:** Despite their 1-10 league record, the Eagles lost eight games by two runs or less and were in pretty much every game. They've got a lot of position players returning, but pitching will be a question. Besides playing the outfield, Eleck also can pitch.

Piedmont

- **COACH:** Mike Humphries, 29th

PREDICTED FINISH

- 1. Albany
- 2. Salesian
- 3. St. Mary's
- 4. John Swett
- 5. St. Patrick
- 6. Piedmont
- 7. St. Joseph
- 8. St. Elizabeth
- 9. Kennedy

season

- **2002 RECORD:** 16-9, 7-3
- **TOP RETURNING:** P Nikki Aurora, Sr.; 1B Alex Danoff, Sr.; LF Evan Brizendine, Sr.; CF Mac Conn, Sr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** C Ryan Choi, Jr.; RF Brian Trowbridge, Sr.; 2B Kyle Joseph, Sr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** C Drew Olson, 1B Peter Boyle, P Ben Book, SS Josh Boltuch, LF Ryan Tovani
- **OUTLOOK:** The Highlanders made the NCS East Bay 2A playoffs three years in a row but a fourth trip is problematic. Most of the offense graduated, and the Highlanders have struggled to get hits in their nonleague games. Aurora, Danoff and Trowbridge all pitch, and this is the real strength of the team. Defense is a question mark.

St. Elizabeth

- **COACH:** Warren Winters, second season
- **2002 RECORD:** 0-25, 0-9
- **TOP RETURNING:** SS Marcus Flentory Sr.; P Nick Bonavidez, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMER:** C Orlando Crum, Fr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** None
- **OUTLOOK:** The litany of woes the Mustangs have had the past two years would stagger other teams; they have gone 0-36 since Winters took over the program. It's not his fault. His main job is instilling fundamentals and pride back into a program that produced Dave Stewart way back when. So far he is doing it; St. Elizabeth is 4-2 in nonleague games and one of those losses was 2-1 to Berean Christian. Don't be surprised if they manage to bag a league win or two this season.

St. Joseph

- **COACH:** Ray Freitas, 24th season
- **2002 RECORD:** 12-13, 6-5
- **TOP RETURNING:** 2B Nick Thomson, Sr.; C Javier Alvarez, Sr.; P Chad Freitas, Sr.; 1B Andy Duncan, Sr.; SS Noah Mitchell, Jr.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** Inf Mark Almeida, So.; P Marquis Fleming, Jr.; 2B Justin Chavez, So.
- **KEY LOSS:** P Patrick Larsen
- **OUTLOOK:** The Pilots were 1-3 in nonleague games, but some coaches around the league like them because of the quality of their returning players. Freitas is particularly high on Chavez, the only left-handed hitter in the lineup. "He's a good bunter and a pull hitter," Freitas said. "I'm trying to get him to spray the ball around." St.

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

began to celebrate, a referee was emphatically waving off the basket.

The fans had to take their seats, and Oakland Tech had a second life.

"I felt I made that shot. The referee called it off. I thought it was good," said Alexander, who scored a team-high 19 points. "We played hard. We played with everything we had."

Alexander fouled out with 3:42 left in overtime. And Powe sank two free throws to give Oakland Tech a lead it would not relinquish.

Berkeley did tie the score 26 seconds later on a short basket

by Jason Maples, but the Bulldogs went on a 7-0 run to take control.

"We out-fouled them 16-5 in the second half. I'm interested to see how that happened," said Gagnani, who had three players foul out.

Powe was called for his third foul with 5:15 remaining in the second quarter, which relegated him to the bench for the rest of the half. Berkeley then went on a 14-4 run to end the half. Berkeley held a 31-26 halftime lead.

Shaun Burl and Dontae Hall each scored 15 points for Berkeley. Quintin Thomas backed up Powe with 13 points for Oakland Tech.

DIVISION III

Foothill-Sacramento 82, El Cerrito 55: Outmuscled and outgunned, the visiting Gauchos'

(25-6) spectacularly lost to an abrupt halt at 31-26 handed over to the CIF Regional.

The loss denies El Cerrito at its first state title game.

"We prepared for any other game," said Brent Daniels said. "I did a good job. I did all but decided never."

Using a press that helped turn turnovers into the Mustangs' 13-2 run after a 1-2 run after the first quarter last.

Staff writer Orlando contributed to this

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

tries from St. Mary's.

Weather conditions were so bad that no meet records were set — a first for the event. That does not mean there weren't good races. Berkeley's Alex Encoe burst past Yosef Ghebray of James Logan in the backstretch to win the boys 1,600. Encoe finished in 4 minutes, 23.6 seconds, and Ghebray, just a sophomore, was second in 4:24.2.

Also Michelle Gallagher of Sacred Heart Cathedral-S.F. won the girls 3,200 in 11:02.4, defeating Lindsay Allen of College Park, who was second in 11:20.6.

Jehan Sparks of Piedmont finished fourth in the girls 1,600

in 5:24.3 (Melissa Grelli of Presentation-San Jose won in 5:10.4), and sister Naomi Sparks finished third in the 800 in 2:25.6 (Ashley Vallis of Deer Valley won in 2:20.9).

Piedmont and St. Mary's

Even though the Piedmont girls basketball team lost to St. Mary's-Stockton in the finals of the Northern California Regionals, it is in select BSAL company. Only one other league team has gone further — in 2001, when the St. Mary's Berkeley boys team defeated Crossroads to win the State Division IV championship.

Yu on a roll

St. Joseph Notre Dame golfer Blake Yu has won medalist honors in every nonleague match.

The Pilots were 6-4 matches.

Student-athletes

The North Coast announced its Scholarship teams and BSAL teams. The St. Joseph Notre Dame basketball team was vision 1 with a GPA of 3.0, and the Pilots team was third at 2.8 GPA.

The Piedmont girls team was first in 3.5 GPA, and Albany with a 3.51 GPA.

The Piedmont boys team was third at 3.2 GPA, and the squad also was 3.2 GPA.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

They would not have much to celebrate afterward. During the overtime period, Alexander fouled out with four minutes to play. The Bulldogs then embarked on a 7-0 run to secure the win.

The loss put a huge damper on a great performance from Alexander who led the team in scoring with 19 points. Shaun Burl and Dontae Hall each added 15 points.

Earlier in the day at the same venue, the girls from Berkeley also lost, falling to Laguna Creek-Elk Grove 62-40.

The Cardinals jumped all over the Yellow Jackets from the start with a 22-6 first-quarter run. Berkeley did show signs of life in the second quarter to cut the lead to 24-20 at

the half and then 28-25 midway through the third quarter.

Baseball

In one of its final tuneups before the start of ACCAL play, Berkeley got a big effort from pitchers Ethan Friedman and Walker Toma last Tuesday. The duo allowed one run on seven hits in the Yellow Jackets' 5-1 win over Antioch.

After exchanging runs in the first inning, the Yellow Jackets scored three runs in the second, sparked by Eddie Pickett's single with runners at the corners to drive home the go-ahead run.

Pickett went 2-for-2 with an RBI and two runs scored. DeAndre Miller went 3-for-3 with three stolen bases.



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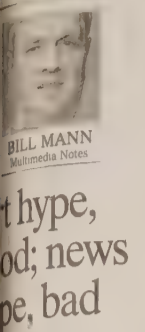
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Arts

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Multimedia Notes

t hype,
od; news
pe, bad

VISION, someone
wryly observed, "is
art form trapped
an industry." But to
degrees, so is all art.
special considerations all
separate visual and
ing artists from their
visions (Hollywood is
the most extreme ex-
). Too often, success in
your art to a wider au-
is simply a matter of

's one recurrent theme
mark." A worthwhile and
new weekly series
on Bay Area artists —
s, dancers, actors, vi-
s — produced by
TV Channel 9, premier-
nesday at 7:30 p.m.
goes behind the
to show viewers the ac-
tive process. You hear
stories not often seen or
the general public.

could become a
for artists and art pa-
the handsome show also
retro graphics, tasty
on-screen listings of
arts events, plus a Web
www.kqed.org/spark) that
wide info on local art
and shows.

ing just participated in a
dramatic production, I
greater appreciation of
laborative effort and the
required to make a
night. The anxieties of
t are highlighted in
nesday's first installment
"Don Quixote," which
looks at the
the new Asian Art Mu-
also goes backstage
remiere of the San Fran-
let's ambitious new
of "Don Quixote."
series' second install-
shows San Francisco
ndy Rasta Thomas
L.A., where he per-
the show directed by
Allen and where he
and an agent and
and TV roles. "If I could
the talented young
things, 'I'd prefer to sell
my art instead.'"

ing an inviting segment
on up-and-coming
District graphic artist
man, an easygoing
type. On "Spark" you
ual encounter with
K's big-time art world
lands an exhibit at the
Whitney Museum.
shows Johanson and his
tically trying to find
multimedia exhibit in
wealthy Big Apple art
and critics stream in and
of approval, Johanson,
ed painting at his day
ing skateboards, then
lights, "Being famous
a drag." Perhaps, but
support oneself.

ing "Spark" segments
side: San Francisco
y conductor Michael
omas reflecting on the
who helped shape his
piece on well-known
musician Ali Akbar
s's shown passing
gift to students.
K" pulls off a difficult
-mystifying the artis-
by showing work
ted and by having
k about what they do
they do it. Plus,
s one of the few
e ever seen that actu-
at the art-as-business
any depth.

HYPE ALREADY:
s publicity depart-
ch hasn't had much
e lately, has been in
since KPIX's 11 p.m.
won the February
at month. It's the CBS
first win in anything
e. It may be true that
of KPIX's news has
marginally, but
eeps win was attrib-
to that or new news
to the collapse of for-
winner KRON's late
ings without NBC pro-
s its lead-in. View-
rpy tuning around
for news at 11.

E-mail Bill: News-
net.



THE GROUP Edessa will be one of the groups performing in Saturday's concert celebrating the 30th anniversary of Ashkenaz.

Balkanization is a good thing

■ Balkan music and dance is celebrated in an event hosted by and benefiting Ashkenaz

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

Perhaps it was at a Greek wedding. Or maybe at a circumcision or even a strike. But it certainly was while playing Balkan music that Lise Liepman found her spiritual home, and she continues to build and foster the dance and musical traditions of that region in the East Bay.

Liepman moved to Berkeley more than 30 years ago and soon became enamored of the Balkan dance scene fostered by Ashkenaz founder David Nadel. In homage to the late activist and nightclub owner, Liepman has invited about 80 of her musical cohorts (comprising 20 different groups) to the San Pablo Avenue club this Saturday to help celebrate its 30th anniversary and raise funds to keep the music playing.

Liepman's interest in Balkan music quickly led her from the dance floor to the performing stage, and one of her bands, Edessa (named for a town in Greek Macedonia), will play Saturday.

CONCERT

WHAT: Balkan Musical Celebration

WHEN: 7 p.m., Saturday, March 22

WHERE: Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley

TICKETS: \$15

INFORMATION: 510-525-5054

"I started in the Westwind Dance Company, and many of us were dancing to taped music — there was no live music," said Liepman. Through the '70s, she said, more musicians began coming to America, fostering an environment where novices could both dance to live music and learn to play the instruments. George Chittenden, Liepman's husband and a fellow Edessa member, found inspiration through just such a Turkish drumming workshop, thus beginning a musical adventure for the couple that continues today.

Liepman and Chittenden lived in Greece and Turkey for a year, an experience she remembers as "heaven!" Liepman now teaches dance workshops at Ashkenaz and other Bay Area locales, in addition to playing accordion and santouri (Greek hammered dulcimer). Chittenden has a musical bag

of tricks, including the clarinet, saxophone, Bulgarian bagpipe and the zurna, a Turkish double-reed instrument. Percussionist Dan Avuil and violinist Ari Langer round out the Edessa sound.

Liepman said Balkan dancing and music foster connections.

"I love getting beginners excited about the dancing," she said. "You can join in very simply to begin with (and use) just a basic vocabulary of moves." Many Balkan dances create a powerful sense of belonging because they are performed in a circle, she said, with people often holding hands.

"After a little while you really start to feel like you belong to a community," she said.

Some all-star members of that community will be at Ashkenaz on Saturday, including the Bebelev Family — Bulgarian champion bagpipe player Vassil Bebelev and his wife, singer Maria Bebelev, and his son.

Also making appearances are well-known Oakland and a capella ensemble Kitka and Rum Shopov and Friends. Shopov, a Bulgarian Rom, or gypsy, has put together "a really hot band," said Liepman. She said sharing the stage with such performers was "an incredible honor."

Some musicians will be big treks to pay tribute to the local Balkan scene and Nadel. Joining Zapadne Lole, a group that plays music from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia, will be a violin player from Seattle. "Mark Forry is a wonderful singer," Liepman said of Zapadne Lole's front man.

A community legacy

Edessa also has done some long-distance traveling — with a Balkan dance camp in Japan — to spread the music.

"There's something appealing about this music," said Liepman. "Maybe it's a place of passion that we don't have in (American) culture. It's not my ethnic background, but once I went to my first Greek dance and saw people moving together in that way, I felt like I'd come home."

Liepman talked about David Nadel's legacy to the community. "He started all this because his first love was Balkan dancing and he wanted a place where you could dance past midnight," she said. "Here we are, 30 years later, with a lot of the same people."

Brian Kluepfel is a freelance journalist who has lived in the 'burbs, the Bronx, Bolivia and Berkeley. He can be reached at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

'Cow' follows family from East to West



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

IT WOULD spoil some of the fun of "The Great Celestial Cow," Sue Townsend's moving and episodic play at TheatreFIRST, to describe the creature in detail. Let's just say there is a "cow," and this contraption, complete with anatomically correct under, leads to an essential suspension of disbelief that ends with a kind of amused acceptance and even affection.

The story, told in a series of vignettes ranging from India to London between 1975 and 1984, follows a family moving from their Indian village to resettle in England.

The play moves among several layers of human experiences, from reactions to cultural differences to the age-related attitudes of three generations — a husband and wife, their children, and the husband's mother and aunt.

The central character in this wrenching change is Sita, the wife and mother, delightfully played with a blend of wide-eyed wonder and keen practicality by Rica Anderson. Her sensitive and nuanced performance bridges the conflicting components of the play.



RACHEL REHMET, left, Rica Anderson and Lauren Grace perform in TheaterFIRST's production of

A note of poignancy is provided by the experience of the children in their new home.

Prem (Rishi Shukla), the son and future head of the family, is treated as its "golden child." His behavior degenerates in proportion to his family's dotting.

Meanwhile, the daughter, Bibi (Ruchira Shah), gets short shrift and little encouragement as she over-achieves at school, eventually finding her own path to rebellion against the

strictures of her family and community.

There is a touching and timely air about "Cow" that serves the seriousness of its message of aculturation. And yet it exudes a warm familial humor — without descending to sit-com rally — that softens, perhaps too much, the real struggles of this blending of East and West.

The strong and focused cast also includes, often in multiple roles, Ekow Daniels, Amit

Garg, Lauren Grace, Viji Raghunathan, Rachel Rehmet and Sandy Schlechter.

Fragmented by Townsend's episodic telling of this wide-canvas story, played on an almost bare space in Oakland's YWCA, 1515 Webster St., it's a challenging play to produce, but director Clive Chafer has accomplished it with high spirits, grace and respect.

See THEATER, Page C5

EVENTS

STAGE

ALTARENA PLAYHOUSE — "Over the River and Through the Woods" by Joe DiPietro, closing March 22. A hit comedy about a young man whose decision about his future sparks an eruption of unsolicited advice, matchmaking, meddling and unending food from his four Italian-American grandparents.

\$12 general; \$9 seniors and students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. 1408 High Street, Alameda. 510-523-1553 or www.altarena.org

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — "Fraulein Else" by Francesca Fardany, closing March 28. Adapted from a 1921 novella by Viennese writer Arthur Schnitzler, this is the world premiere of the play about a young, beautiful and witty woman who runs into horrible trouble while vacationing at an Italian spa.

\$38 to \$54 general; \$19 to \$27 seniors and students; \$20 under age 30. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949 or www.berkeleyrep.org

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL — "Gala Bellissima," March 22, 6 p.m. An elegant evening inspired by all things Italian is taking place to benefit the Cal Shakes Annual Fund and the Theatre's Artistic Learning Initiative. The evening includes live and silent auctions, dinner, cocktails, dancing and live music from Steve Lucky and the Rumba Burns.

\$175 to \$250. The Historic Rotunda Building, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-548-3422, ext. 125 or www.calshakes.org

EIGHTH STREET STUDIO THEATRE — "Oedipus Rex" adaptation by Nicholas Rudall, closing March 30. Featuring the cast of Shotgun Players and guest performers from Darvag, this is a soulful translation of the famous Greek drama.

\$18 general; \$12 seniors and students; \$20 opening night with reception; \$10 Thursdays. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org

IMPACT THEATRE — "Scab" by Sheila Callaghan, through April 5. The story of Anima, who is falling in love with her roommate and best friend.

Christa. Meanwhile, Christa is secretly sleeping with Anina's ex-boyfriend.

\$15 general; \$10 seniors and students. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4468 or www.impacttheatre.org

MASQUEURS PLAYHOUSE — "Cinderella Waltz" by Don Nigro, March 28 through May 3. This takes the story of Cinderella and her Prince and little further. It examines the idea of love being something different and possibly dangerous.

\$13. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; April 6, April 13 and April 27, 2:30 p.m. 1031 Park Place, Richmond. 510-232-4035 or www.masqueurs.org

THEATREFIRST — "The Great Celestial Cow" by Sue Townsend, through April 6. A humorous and touching story of a family emigrating from India to England in the '70s.

\$16 to \$19 general; \$3 off for students, seniors; half-price for under 25. Oakland YWCA, 1515 Webster, Oakland. 510-436-5085 or www.theatrefirst.com

TRANSPARENT THEATRE — "The Rehearsal" by Mark Chappell and Alan Connor Hamilton, closing March 23. The audience is brought into the making of an obscure fictional Hungarian play titled "The Ear."

\$20 general; pay-what-you-can Sunday. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-0305 or www.transparenttheater.org

WILDE IRISH PRODUCTIONS — "The Importance of Being Oscar" by Michael Mac Liammoir, closing March 23. A theatrical journey through Oscar Wilde's life. \$9 to \$20. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7287 or 510-558-1381 or www.wildeirish.org

POPULAR MUSIC

ASHKENAZ — Native Elements, March 21, 9 p.m. With Dan-I Spencer, Rhythms, Pacific Vibrations and Shashamani Soundsystem. A benefit concert in the month-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ashkenaz.

\$15. Shashamani Soundsystem, March 23, 10 p.m. \$6.

DP and The Rhythm Riders, March 25, 8:30 p.m. Cajun-zydeco band. \$9. Grateful Dead DJ Nite, March 27, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$6.

Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick, Bluegrass Intentions and Stainwell Sisters, March 28, 8 p.m. A benefit concert in the month-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of Ashkenaz. \$15.

Zydeco Flames, Tom Rigney and Flambeau, Aux Cajunals, March 29, 9 p.m. \$15. A benefit concert in the month-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of Ashkenaz.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-9055 or www.ashkenaz.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Dank Man Shank, March 21. With Thunderpussy and Bray.

Alphabet Soup, March 22. With Greens, LT and the Friendly Traveler, March 23. With Potluck and Homonym and Tyrant.

All Star Jam, March 24. With The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee.

Third World with MC UC BUJ, March 26. With Djs Kuu and Curious. Acoustic Wednesday with Mikie Lee Prasad, March 26, 10 p.m. In The Tini-bar.

See EVENTS, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Christine Dolen, Karen Heller and Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Ben Nukols, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Bruce Westbrook, Houston Chronicle; Jan Stuart, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Evan Henderson, Valerie Kuksinski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Charles Ealy, Tom Maustadt, Chris Vognar, Matt Weitz and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Christopher Kelly and Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Bialke, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"ABOUT SCHMIDT": If you love Jack Nicholson, seeing Alexander Payne's ("Election") dark and rather mournful comedy should be high on your list. It

OPENING TODAY

"BOAT TRIP" (R)
Straight guy (Cuba Gooding Jr.) gets on a cruise ship looking for love, only to find it's a gay cruise. Fortunately, there's a cute female dance instructor on board.

"DREAMCATCHER" (R)
Four childhood friends meet for a reunion in the woods and encounter a terrifying alien force traveling within a blizzard. Based on the Stephen King novel and starring Morgan Freeman, Jason Lee and Tom Sizemore.

features the actor in a state of mind in which we rarely see him: vulnerable, soul-searching and compromising in a way that ordinary people must often be. He is Nebraska Warren Schmidt, recently retired and widowed, and realizing how futile his life has been. Only means to salvation: Stop his daughter (Hope Davis) from marrying a doofus waterbed salesman (Dermot Mulroney). — M. Pols. (R: language and brief nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"ADAPTATION": This latest collaboration from director Spike Jonze and

"PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE" (G)
Piglet feels too small to be of any use to anyone, so he runs away, and Pooh and the gang must track him down.

"STONE READER" (NR)
A documentary about a man's quest to find an elusive writer who wrote one great book and then disappeared.

"VIEW FROM THE TOP" (PG-13)
Comedy about a woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) who dreams of being a first-class international flight attendant.

screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, the "Being John Malkovich" team, is a heady, happy jumble of thought and storytelling, an insane comic undertaking that ultimately coheres into a sane and breathtakingly creative film. Ostensibly, it's about adapting Susan Orlean's book, "The Orchid Thief," to film, with Nicolas Cage doing double duty as the tortured screenwriter and his more successful twin brother. Add Meryl Streep as the author, doing shockingly un-Streepian things, and an Oscar-worthy performance by

Chris Cooper ("Lone Star"). — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some drug use and violent images.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. A

"AGENT CODY BANKS": The plot, such as it is, concerns Cody (Frankie Muniz), a middle-class Seattle teen who attends secret spy camp and is hired by the CIA to court Natalie (Hilary Duff), daughter of the richest absent-minded scientist in movie history, unwittingly in cahoots with evil guys threatening to — what else? — take over the world. This movie is written and directed on auto-pilot, containing every cliché endemic to these movies: clueless parents, bratty brother, nasty rich kids, pool fight, foot fight, girls who can't drive. — K. Heller. (PG: action violence, mild language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. D

"AMANDLA! A REVOLUTION IN FOUR PART HARMONY": This documentary about the toppling of apartheid and South Africa's long struggle for liberation from white domination threads together interviews and archival clips with a percolating soundtrack. Director Lee Hirsch makes the case that musical expression was central to the push for self-determination. Every chapter in the often brutal, ultimately triumphant saga is accompanied by songs of defiance, mourning, pride and despair. "Amandla" is the Xhosa word for power, and the film certainly lives up to its name. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: scenes of rioting and police brutality, and discussions of torture.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B+

"BLIND SPOT: HITLER'S SECRETARY": History buffs won't want to miss this sparse new German documentary about the last days of the Nazi leader. Deceptively simple, less a film than a compassionate oral history. Traudi Junge, 81, talks candidly about her experiences as Hitler's secretary. There's no archival footage; in fact, nothing but Junge sitting in front of the camera. But she's a brisk storyteller, and the material sucks you in. At the end, we're convinced we have spent time in the company of a good person whose biggest crime was never questioning authority. — M. Pols. (PG: thematic material.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

"BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE": Just hours before they killed a dozen classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling. Was there a connection? Is it logical to blame the sport, or for that matter, any single thing for America's violent nature? "Bowling for Columbine" doesn't have the answers, and really doesn't expect to find them. For documentary director Michael Moore, the asking is what's important. — K. Turan. (R: some violent images and language.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE": This is one high-concept please-the-masses comedy that works. Upright Peter Sanderson (Steve Martin) is a divorced father of two. His job as tax attorney at a stuffy law firm allows no time to connect with his kids. Longing for some semblance of romance, he arranges a rendezvous with an alleged Ivy League female attorney he befriended on the Internet. But Charlene Morton (Queen Latifah) turns out to have a criminal record instead of a law degree, though she maintains her innocence. She teaches him to loosen up, talk the right lingo and establish street cred with his offspring.

Everyone seems to have a good time. If you can ignore the plot contrivances, so will you. — P. Wuntch. (PG-13: language, drugs, sexuality, nudity, violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B-

"CATCH ME IF YOU CAN": Director Steven Spielberg has pulled off a neat feat, with two cool movies in one year. He's likely to get more praise for the darkly futuristic "Minority Report," but the pleasure is all ours in this fleet-footed treat, based on a true story. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr., who began his career as a con artist as a teen in the '60s. With Tom Hanks as the workaholic FBI man who pursues him through bogus identities as a doctor and Pan Am pilot. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and brief language.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. A-

"CHICAGO": Why was it again that Hollywood stopped making movie musicals? Who decided we shouldn't leave a theater humming that catchy tune, fighting the urge to tap dance our way across the lobby? "Chicago" is the kind of uplifting, exhilarating movie that makes you ask these questions. Vastly talented Renee Zellweger even manages to upstage diva Catherine Zeta-Jones in this tawdry tale, originally based on true-crime cases and later made into a Broadway musical. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and dialogue, violence and thematic elements.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. A

"CITY OF GOD": Fernando Meirelles' scorching anecdotal history of violence in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, traces the decline of a neighborhood, Cidade de Deus (City of God), from a sun-baked shantytown where children while away the days in soccer games and petty thievery into a shadowy slum teeming with armed adolescent warriors. The portrait of a boy soldier enlisting in a volunteer criminal army with an astronomical mortality rate is one of the movie's many profoundly unsettling images. Adapted from a best-selling novel by Paulo Lins, who grew up in Cidade de Deus. Its narrator, Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues), is a young photographer from the same neighborhood, whose loose-jointed yarns follow the fates of a number of his childhood acquaintances. — S. Holden. (R: scenes of violence and graphic sex talk.) 2 hours, 10 minutes. A-

"CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE": Jet Li stomps on henchmen. Rapper DMX tosses bad guys left and right. Tom Arnold and Anthony Anderson start shooting a cannon. This crazy-cult martial arts thriller-comedy with a staggering body count is as idiotic as a committee of bad screenwriters could make it. They're all in pursuit of some mysterious black diamonds that DMX's rich, cool gang of jewel thieves has stolen. Li is the Taiwanese cop on the case. Mindless fun, with the emphasis on "mindless." — R. Moore. (R: violence, language, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. D-

"DAREDEVIL": This "Spider-Man" wannabe fails, largely thanks to how hard it is to take Ben Affleck as a superhero, let alone one as dark and angry as Daredevil. Stan Lee's 1964 creation. Thanks to a childhood brush with toxic waste, he's a blind lawyer by day, vigilante by night. He's supposed to be seething with the weight of the world, but he comes across instead as a yuppie ticked off at the dry cleaner who stole his Hugo

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday March 21

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
●City of God (R) 6:45, 9:45
●The Quiet American (R) 7, 10.

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456
●Laural Canyon (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30.
●The Pianist (R) 1:45, 5, 8:15.

AMC Bay Street 16

3614 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262
●About Schmidt (R) 1:50, 5, 8, 10:40.
●Boat Trip (R) 1, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 1, 2, 3, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30, 10:35, 11.
●Chicago (PG-13) 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20.
●Cradle 2 the Grave (R) 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10.
●Frida (R) 1:25, 4:35, 7:20, 10.
●Gangs of New York (R) 4, 10:05.
●The Hours (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55.
●How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50.
●Life of David Gole (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30.
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 3:30, 9:45.
●Old School (R) 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 8, 10:15.
●Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 1:05, 7:10.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 1:20, 2:10, 5:10, 7:25, 8:10, 10:55.
●Willard (PG-13) 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:30, 11.

California Theatre

2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 6:45.
●Bringing Down the House 5, 7:20, 9:35.
●The Hunted (R) 4:40, 7, 9:15.
●Irreversible (Not Rated) 4:15, 9:25.
●Chabot Space & Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland 510-336-7300
●The Human Body (Not Rated) 11:30, 5:30.
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 3:30.
●Myrieties of Egypt (Not Rated) 12:30.
●To Fly (Not Rated) 10:20, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30.
●Elmwood 3
2966 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
●Frida (R) 4:35, 8:50.
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 4:30, 8:05.
●Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 8, 8:45.
●Rivers and Tides (Not Rated) 7.
●Renaissance Grand Lake
3200 Grand Avenue Oakland 510-462-3556
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45.
●Chicago (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30.
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 8:30.
●Old School (R) 12, 2, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 10.
●Piglet's Big Movie 11:35, 1:30, 3:30, 5:15, 7.
●Jack London Stadium
100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
●Agent Cody Banks 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 11:45, 1:25, 2:15, 3:55, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45.
●Chicago (PG-13) 10:55, 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40.
●Cradle 2 the Grave (R) 11.
●Dreamcatcher 11:55, 3:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:55, 10:40.
●The Hunted (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35.
●The Jungle Book 2 (G) 12:40.
●Tears of the Sun 11:05, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10.
●View From the Top 12, 2:20, 4:35, 7, 9:20.
●Willard (PG-13) 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05.

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

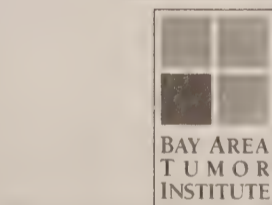
1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836
●About Schmidt (R) 8:30.
●Gangs of New York (R) 7:15.
●Piglet's Big Movie (G) 7.
●Parkway Theater
1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
●25th Hour (R) 9:15.
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 9:45.
●Rabbit-Proof Fence (PG) 7.
●Talk to Her (R) 6:30.
●Piedmont Theatre
4186 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-843-3456
●Adaptation (R) 4:15, 9:15.
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 3:45, 9:45.
●Far from Heaven (PG-13) 1:45, 6:45.
●The Pianist (R) 12:30, 6:30.
●The Quiet American (R) 1:15, 4, 7, 9:30.
●Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●Adaptation (R) 4, 9.
●Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony (PG-13) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50.
●Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary (PG) 1:30, 6:50.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:40.

●Far from Heaven (PG-13) 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15.
●He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not (NR) 4:30, 9:45.
●The Hours (PG-13) 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20.
●Rabbit-Proof Fence (PG) 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30.
●Russian Ark (NR) 12:10, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25.
●Spider (R) 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:30, 10.
●Talk to Her (R) 2, 7.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:35.
●United Artists Berkeley 7
2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15.
●Boat Trip (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 10:05.
●Chicago (PG-13) 12:05, 2:45, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55.
●How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 12:25, 5, 5:30, 8, 10:25.
●The Hunted (R) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 1, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20.
●Willard (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:35, 10:30.
●United Artists Emery Bay
6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0107
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 12:20, 1:50, 2:50, 4:30, 5:20, 7:10, 8, 9:30, 10:20.
●Daredevil (PG-13) 9.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 12, 1:10, 3:20, 4:20, 7, 7:30, 10:10, 10:40.
●The Hunted (R) 12:20, 1:40, 2:40, 4:40, 5:30, 7:20, 8:20, 9:40, 10:30.
●The Jungle Book 2 (G) 12.
●The Pianist (R) 12:10, 3:30, 7, 10:10.
●Piglet's Big Movie (G) 12:30, 2:30, 4:50, 7.
●The Quiet American (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10.

●Willard (PG-13) 2:25, 5:55, 8:30, 10:55.
●AMC Kabuki 8
1881 Post St., San Francisco 415-931-9800
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 1:30, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30.
●Boat Trip (R) 2:10, 5, 7:45, 10:20
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05.
●How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 1:10, 4, 6:45, 9:35
●The Hunted (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
●Old School (R) 2:20, 5:10, 7:55, 10:25
●Tears of the Sun (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55.
●Willard (PG-13) 2, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15.
●Bridge Theatre
3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●The Quiet American (R) 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45.
●Castro Theatre
428 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6620
●The Apartment (Not Rated) 9
●Manhattan (R) 7.
●Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●The Big Lebowski (R)
●The Pianist (R) 1, 4:30, 8.
●Embarcadero Center Cinemas
1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0810
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50.
●City of God (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:40.
●Far from Heaven (PG-13) 12:10, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10:10.
●Laural Canyon (R) 12, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10.
●Talk to Her (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45.
●Lumiere Theatre
1572 California St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30.
●Irreversible (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10.
●Spider (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45.
●Opera Plaza Cinema
601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:45.
●He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not (Not Rated) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20.
●The Red Vic Theatre
1727 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3994
●8 Mile (Not Rated) 7:15, 9:35.
●The Roxie Theatre
3117 18th At Valencia, San Francisco 415-863-1087
●Daughter from Danang (Not Rated) 8.
●David Hockney: Secret Knowledge 6:30, 9:30.
●Loews Theatres Metreon
101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50.
●Boat Trip (R) 12:40, 3, 5:50, 8:20, 11:10.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 10:40, 12:20, 1:30, 3:10, 4:20, 6:10, 7:10, 9, 10, 11:50.
●Chicago (PG-13) 11:50, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20.
●Cradle 2 the Grave (R) 10:35.
●Daredevil (PG-13) 11.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 10:30, 12, 1:50, 3:20, 5:10, 6:50, 8:40, 10:20, 12.
●How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 11:10, 2:15, 5:05, 8, 10:50.
●The Hunted (R) 11:50, 1, 2:10, 3:40, 4:50, 6:20, 7:30, 8:50, 10:10, 11:30.
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 1:40, 5:30, 9:10.
●Old School (R) 10:50, 1:20, 4, 6:40, 9:20, 11:40.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 12:50, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30.
●Willard (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:40.
●Loews IMAX Theatre
101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
●Chicago (PG-13) 7, 9:40.
●The Lion King (G) 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30.
●United Artists Galaxy 4
1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-474-8700
●Chicago (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:45.
●Down and Out with the Dolls (R) 1:20, 4, 7:15, 9:15.
●Gangs of New York (R) 1, 4:30, 8.
●Safe Conduct (Not Rated) 1:30, 5, 8:30.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 1:30, 2, 4:10, 4:45, 6:55, 7:35, 9:30, 10:15.
●Chicago (PG-13) 1:15, 3:55, 6:50, 9:25.
●Daredevil (PG-13) 3:50, 6:40, 9:20.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 1, 4, 7, 10.
●The Hunted (R) 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:35.
●The Jungle Book 2 (G) 1:35.
●Old School (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:10.
●The Pianist (R) 9:10.
●Piglet's Big Movie (G) 2:10, 4:25, 7:10.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 2:25, 5, 7:40, 9:55.
●Willard (PG-13) 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05.

Central Contra Costa

●Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-54-9080
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:20.
●The Quiet American (R) 12:30, 3:30, 7:15, 9:35.
●Willard (PG-13) 12, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9.
●Renaissance Park Theatre
3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
●Chicago (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30.
●Rheem Theatre
350 Park St. Moraga 925-988-3411
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 4:40, 7:30, 9:30.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 4:15, 7, 9:45.
●The Hunted (R) 4:50, 7:40, 9:15.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:35.
●West Contra Costa
●Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 11:15, 11:55, 12:25, 1:45, 2:20, 4:10, 4:45, 6:35, 7:10, 9:35.
●Boat Trip (R) 12:55, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10.
●Chicago (PG-13) 11:25, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50.
●Cradle 2 the Grave (R) 2:40, 5, 7:25, 9:55.
●Daredevil (PG-13) 7:55, 10:25.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 11:45, 12:45, 2:50, 4, 6, 7:05, 9:10, 10:15.
●Gangs of New York (R) 9.
●The Hunted (R) 11:40, 12:40, 2, 3:05, 4:25, 5:35, 7, 7:50, 9:25, 10:15.
●The Jungle Book 2 (G) 12, 2, 4:05, 6.
●Old School (R) 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:50, 8:05, 10:30.
●Piglet's Big Movie (G) 11:20, 1:15, 3:10, 5:05, 7.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 11:35, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 11:50, 1:50, 3:55, 5:55, 8, 10.
●Willard (PG-13) 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10.
●San Francisco
●AMC Van Ness 14
1000 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-922-4262
●25th Hour (R) 1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25.
●About Schmidt (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10.
●Adaptation (R) 1:05, 4:45, 7:20, 10:15.
●Agent Cody Banks (PG) 2:10, 5, 7:25, 10:55.
●Boat Trip (R) 2:15, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05.
●Bringing Down the House (PG-13) 2:20, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40.
●Dreamcatcher (R) 1, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45.
●The Hours (PG-13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50.
●The Hunted (R) 2:25, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15.
●Old School (R) 2:30, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15.
●Tears of the Sun (R) 1:50, 5:10, 8, 10:50.
●View From the Top (PG-13) 1:25, 3:40, 6, 8:20, 10:35.

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Boss suit. Color. Fast. top treat as the star. nor the lovely arena. love interest a broad picture — M. Pols. 36 minutes. D-

"FAR FROM HEAVEN": one filmmaker's year to make our modern year, it is written about the last weapon expected, a Douglas Wright movie that repressed 1950s Technicolor color sides with a graceful, drowsy mood (Dennis Lehane's "Daddy") and a man's "Daddy" and a public "Daddy" for a thematic statement on brief violence in a 47 minutes A

"FINAL DESTINATION": quel, Kimberly's terrible pickup on a date about to enter a plane and saves the lives of the lucky ducks on the plane, but gradually splashed, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of the first movie, but she doesn't splash, smashes, trashed, it has a sense of doom. Kimberly's Rivers (All Larian) in an insane as a part of the prequel "Final Destination" first she thought of the movie, but she doesn't overplay it. "FD2" is the immediate result in the aftermath of

View From the Top' bottoms out

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

View From the Top" is a film aimed at a very select demographic — those who have at least one Barbie doll in their possession. But if you're a girly fantasy, you'll be outated, that only those who cherish the legendary plastic-horse could possibly appreciate or understand. There have been some intention to show audience members who have Barbie on a more ironic note, but if you, that attempt has been awry.

Canadian director Bruno Barison ("Hush Nova") can't decide if he's making a camp comedy about flight attendants or a drama about a girl choosing between love and career. He's got a bit of both, and it's a curious combination.

Academy-winner Gwyneth Paltrow and Donna Jensen, a small-

REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "View From the Top"
- **STARRING:** Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate, Candice Bergen, Rob Lowe, Mike Myers
- **RATING:** PG-13 (language, sexual references)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 27 minutes
- **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
- **GRADE:** D-

town girl from Nevada — although her accent, when it surfaces, suggests the South — who dreams of leaving her trailer park behind and becoming an international flight attendant. She seems to want to do this primarily for the opportunity to wear cute flight-attendant outfits and say *bonjour*.

It's a long road to the top.

Donna starts with Sierra Airlines, a dubious enterprise that caters to drunk gamblers from its base in Laughlin. While working for Sierra, Donna meets two other cutie-patooties, Christine (Christina Applegate) and Sherry (Kelly Preston), and a handsome co-pilot (Rob Lowe). Both Preston and Lowe make brief appearances, then mysteriously disappear, fortunate victims of the editing process.

Mark Ruffalo ("You Can Count on Me") has no such luck. He plays Ted, a nice guy who left law school to follow his bliss in the wild West. He and Donna meet while she's at Sierra, are attracted to each other — or so they claim, since there's no chemistry between Ruffalo and Paltrow — and are forced to part when she gets a trainee job with the much fancier Royalty Airlines. It's not giving too much away to reveal that Ted does pop up again later

in the story, apparently having found and become bored by his bliss.

A number of other usually reliable talents are wasted on this should-have-gone-straight-to-cable mess. Mike Myers plays a Royalty flight-attendant instructor with a permanently crossed eye. The actor positively begs for laughs, but the combination of Eric Wald's boneheaded script and the tastelessness of milking a disability for humor make it impossible to oblige.

Candice Bergen is Sally Weston, a motivational speaker and former Royalty flight attendant who decides, rather randomly, to mentor Donna. There's a scene where Sally takes Donna into her massive walk-in closet and drapes a vintage Royalty uniform over her protegee. "That is so beautiful," Donna sighs, staring at her reflection in a green and blue suit that Queen Elizabeth might wear to cut a ribbon for a new day care center.

She's absolutely sincere; talk about suspending disbelief. The

movie, remember, is set in present-day. I don't know about you, but in the past 30 years I've noticed nothing alluring about flight attendants' uniforms. Certainly they seem practical; they are unlikely to show dirt and carry a reassuring sense of professionalism. To call them beautiful seems a stretch.

What drew a classy Oscar winner such as Paltrow to this project? There's evidence she likes comedy ("Shallow Hal," "The Anniversary Party") and is quite capable in this arena. But "View From the Top" isn't remotely funny, so we have to assume she's in it for something else. As Donna, she wears padded bras, a pink bikini and even, in one of the depressingly dull outtakes (if your outtakes aren't funny, hang it up), denim short-shorts and high heels. Barreto doesn't miss an opportunity to highlight her thigh muscles or yoga-toned tummy. So maybe she hoped to boost her sex appeal. Or maybe she's always longed to play Barbie.

Events

FROM PAGE C3

Funk Fetish, March 27 With DJs Eric Riggsbee, Big Al, Maheah and Eric G. Stroke 9, Slight, March 28
Sol Americano, Hebro, Freeway Planet, March 29
Shroomy Shroom, Len Patterson, March 30
\$3 to \$10 general unless noted. For ages 18 and older Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-848-0886
CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Strange Angels, March 23
Vince Wallace Trio, March 26 Grey Paws Trio, March 30
Free, Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-3349 or www.mcatocato.com
DOWNTOWN — Rhonda Benn, March 21
Hal Stein Quartet, March 22
Mimi Fox, March 25
Jules Broussard and Ned Boynton, March 26
Kani El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, March 26

See EVENTS, Page C8

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

Intense violence, sexuality, and language.) 2 hours, 45 minutes. B-

"AUDREY HE LOVES ME": Audrey Tautou plays Anne, a young woman deeply in love with Luc (Samuel Le Bihan), a man of about 30. Never mind that Anne is married or that his wife is sure to leave her, in the end, she's sure that every evening she'll show up at the airport, and they are to take off for a two-week trip. Not surprisingly, Anne starts unraveling at an ever-increasing pace. But just as she is about to the depth of her despair, the film abruptly rewinds right back to its opening shot from Luc's point of view. The film evolves into a psychological suspense, with a creepiness leavened by a slightest touch of pitch-dark humor. — K. Thomas. (NR: violence, language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes.

"HOURS": Director Stephen Hopkins is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning tribute to Virginia Woolf, chronicling her 1941 suicide. The film resonates in the lives of women in the future. Julianne Moore and Meryl Streep are great, and the film is a stop-stop-look (Kdman) in the stop-stop-look. Woolf's been outlived by time; now, even her blue eyes are dead, as if burdened by her man's mania. The actress is both as a genius as the man, and as a woman who can't escape the pain of her man. — M. Pols. (PG-13: mature thematic elements, some disturbing images, brief language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-

"LOSE A GUY IN 10": Magazine writer (Kate Hudson) is assigned to write about a man drive man away in relationship. She chooses as her test subject an advertising executive (Mike Conaway) engaged in a relationship. A bet to make a man fall in love with him. A funny, true, battle of the sexes premise. Despite this fresh premise, the movie does not signal the salvager of romantic comedy, since it is a comedy and formulaic in its humor. It does, however, indicate that it's a comedy. Kate Hudson, with her comic timing, is to be goofy, and a funny, genuine and beguiling. The new princess of comedy. You can feel the humor. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual-related material.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. B-

"UNINTENTED": Atrocious editing, and a mess of plot lines and more than slayings than anyone reasonably want to see. But

the worst offense is that the very fine actor Tommy Lee Jones appears to be playing a dog. He's human bloodhound L.T. Bonham, a civilian with great tracking and killing skills who has trained countless government assassins. When one of his former star pupils, Aaron (a mumbling, seemingly embarrassed Benicio Del Toro), goes nutty and becomes a menace, L.T. is summoned. He runs behind Aaron with his nose in the air as if he's picking up scents, wearing the eager, hunched look of a retriever who fears his master's boot. Jones tries hard to sell it, but it's mortifying. — M. Pols. (R: strong, bloody violence and some language.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. D-

"IRREVERSIBLE": Writer-director Gaspar Noe's story of rape and revenge, told a la "Memento," is by far the best of the recent genre of French boundary-pushing films. Once you're past those scenes of sexual violence and come to know the context and characters involved, you'll find something both deeply humanist and emotionally complex. The first half of the movie, or the second half of the story, reeks of sensationalism, and one would be hard-pressed to defend Noe for his excesses. Still, it's amazing how pleasant the pre-crimes section of the movie is to watch. Vincent Cassel and Monica Bellucci bring a casual intimacy to their roles. The movie begins with a nightmare ending and ends with a dreamlike beginning for a couple who, but for one banal, irreversible moment, had their whole lives ahead of them. — J. Mathews. (NR: graphic violence, language, explicit sexuality.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C+

"THE JUNGLE BOOK 2": This sequel to Disney's 1967 animated treatment of the Rudyard Kipling tale has the lush Indian jungle looking a little brighter, and the leap into computer animation allows for some terrific images. Our hero, Mowgli (voiced by Haley Joel Osment), is living in the man village. He has plenty of friends, but longs for his carefree jungle days. Baloo (John Goodman), his beloved puma bear, feels the same and pays Mowgli a visit. Mowgli's real dilemma is the tug between past and present. "The Jungle Book 2" is aimed at younger kids, but, as always, the Disney folks put in some jokes aimed at their parents. — C. Dolan. (G) 1 hour, 15 minutes. B+

"LAUREL CANYON": Square medical-school student Sam (Christian Bale) is forced to move into his ultra-cool record-producer mom's (Frances McDormand) fabulous house in the hills above L.A. Mom was supposed to vacate, but instead she's cutting an album, romping with her hot young rock-star boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola) and sending enticing vibes toward Sam's allegedly uptight fiancée (Kate Beckinsale). If you relish Vanity Fair articles in which celebrity interviews are conducted at L.A.'s hip Chateau Marmont, then writer/director Lisa Cholodenko's vacuous, elitist movie may please you. It, too, implies

that your life would be more glorious if you were poolside, wearing Jean Paul Gaultier and enjoying a ciggie with your wheat-grass shake. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality, language and drug use.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C-

"THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE": Director Alan Parker has overwhelmed this mystery thriller with a sermon about the death penalty that is obvious and smug. Kevin Spacey is the title character, a hotheaded Texas philosophy professor and outspoken death penalty abolitionist on death row for murdering a fellow activist. He's at the end of his appeals, days from execution, when he decides to tell his story to magazine writer Bitesy Bloom (Kate Winslet). The death penalty is an issue that deserves to be on the front burner of the national debate, but "David Gale" is neither the proper forum nor the winning argument its makers suppose it to be. — R. Moore. (R: violent images, nudity, language and sexuality.) 2 hour, 10 minutes. C-

"THE LION KING," IMAX: The Disney animated classic comes to the very big screen, but since everybody's seen it, who will go? Still, the colors are brighter than ever, and the soundtrack is a knockout, especially the orchestral arrangements of Elton John compositions. — R. Butler. (G) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS": The second installment of director Peter Jackson's big-screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's great trilogy is as intoxicating as last year's "Fellowship." Jackson expertly weaves together three distinct journeys, taking as his centerpiece a scene to which Tolkien devoted only a dozen or so pages — the battle to defend Helm's Deep. It's a fantastic choice, one of the most thrilling battle scenes ever filmed. The special effects, most notably the computer-generated creature Gollum (voice and movements by Andy Serkis) are nifty, with the unfortunate exception of the Ents, who look a bit too much like Gumbys. — M. Pols. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 59 minutes. A-

"NICHOLAS NICKLEBY": Writer/director Douglas McGrath's heavily abridged version of Charles Dickens' classic moves with the unnatural briskness of someone who ingested bad Hunan shrimp at lunch. Characters start on- and offscreen, solve each other's problems well before bedtime, and drop dead with great efficiency. This isn't just the Cliffs Notes version of "Nicholas Nickleby." It's the Cliffs Notes with pages missing. McGrath ("Emma") has managed to cram some awfully sweet stuff into 132 minutes of screen time, however, and the movie is beautifully produced and acted by the likes of Christopher Plummer, Jim Broadbent, Tom Courtenay and Juliet Stevenson. — M. Pols. (PG: thematic material involving some violent action and a childbirth scene.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B-

"OLD SCHOOL": Rude, crude and God help me, pretty funny. Whipped yuppie husbands everywhere throw off the shackles of weekend trips to Home Depot and enjoy the tomfoolery of this raucous tale of grown men chafing against the responsibilities of adulthood and marriage. It peters out, as so many comedies do, but not before delivering some inspired bits, including the glorious sight of Vince Vaughn strapped into a Baby Bjorn. With Luke Wilson and the hilarious Will Ferrell. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual content, nudity and language.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. B

"THE PIANIST": This restrained yet emotionally ruinous film set in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation marks a triumphant return for director Roman Polanski. Thanks to his celebrity, Polish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman (Adrien Brody) is spared from the concentration camps, spending the next two years relying on the kindness of strangers, at times quite literally a prisoner, isolated and locked into abandoned apartments, visited only occasionally by Resistance members. His very endurance is heroic. Having given us spine-tling nightmarish images of the imagination in the past ("Rosemary's Baby," "Repulsion"), this Polanski quest, straightforward war. Be prepared to cry, but know too that the movie is worth the anguish it generates. — M. Pols. (R: violence and brief strong language.) 2 hours, 28 minutes. A

"THE QUIET AMERICAN": Michael Caine gives the richest performance of his career in this sage and provocative film adaptation of Graham Greene's scarily prescient 1955 novel. He plays Thomas Fowler, a lazy, dissipated London Times journalist stationed in Saigon during the French-Indochina war. He loves Vietnam and his young girlfriend, Phuong (Do Thi Hai Yen). Then along comes the quiet American, Alden Pyle (Brendan Fraser), who wants to put everything to rights in Vietnam and then go home with Fowler's girl. What unfolds makes you wonder if Greene unlocked the secrets to time travel in the 1950s. This movie has been released in limited theaters, supposedly because it's feared audiences will find it anti-American and stay away. Phew. Let's hope we as a nation are not really so paranoid about revisiting our past mistakes. — M. Pols. (R: violent images and some language.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. A-

"RABBIT-PROOF FENCE": Compelling true tale marks director Philip Noyce's return to his Australian homeland after 15 years in Hollywood. Beautiful, taut drama examines the strengths and weaknesses of humankind through the story of young Aboriginal girls taken from their homes to become servants. — S. Rea. (PG) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B+

"THE RECRUIT": Al Pacino in hack mode, shouting and spitting his way through the role of a CIA recruiter who may or may not be a good guy.

Colin Farrell plays his latest recruit, an idealist looking for both a career and an opportunity to find out the truth about his father, who may have been an agent himself. Bridget Moynahan plays Farrell's love interest. There's a nice sense of urgency to Farrell's performance, but the script lacks the punch to keep us guessing and by the end, Pacino has turned into a big bore. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"RUSSIAN ARK": A film, an experiment in human precision, a vast theatrical production, a history lesson, an art appreciation class and a form of hallucination so potent, the DEA might want to pull a man or two out of Humboldt County to investigate. What more do you want? Shot in a single take, director Alexander Sokurov's movie is a relentlessly beautiful dream, a time-traveling tour through Russian history, set within the Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg. Some aspects of it are mysterious, others confusing. But don't be intimidated by what you don't know about Russian history; just take what you can from this heady, profoundly philosophical movie. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 36 minutes. A

"SHANGHAI KNIGHTS": Jackie Chan is our modern-day Fred Astaire, a fleet-footed, exquisitely graceful martial arts master. Like Astaire, Chan has vast skills, but they're so specific that they require their own framework for display. But the muddled and witless "Shanghai Knights," in which Chan plays a Western sheriff doing the fish-out-of-water routine in Victorian England, is a sad reminder that his talent is doomed to be peddled over and over again in the dumb action-comedy showcase, with little deviation. Even the generally delightful Owen Wilson misfires in this oafish, mean-spirited sequel to "Shanghai Noon." — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence and sexual content.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. D+

"SPIDER": If you're a fan of David Cronenberg's customary sick-and-twisted oeuvre ("eXistenZ," "Dead Ringers"), you might be disappointed by "Spider," which is surprisingly staid in comparison. It's psychologically intriguing and sad, but there's nothing to give you the shivers later. Ralph Fiennes plays a mental patient whose release to a halfway house in the London neighborhood where he grew up prompts him to recall traumatic events involving his mother (Miranda Richardson) and father (Gabriel Byrne) and his own burgeoning sexuality. Fiennes is a mannered pain in the arse, but Richardson is so brilliant, she makes the movie worth seeing. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality, brief violence and language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B-

"TALK TO HER": Pedro Almodovar has created a tragic comedy about need; both its liberating and shackling powers. Benigno (Javier Camara) is a nurse who sits patiently at the side of his unconscious girlfriend, Alicia (Leonor Watling), attending to her needs. Marco (Dario Grandinetti) ministers to his own girlfriend, Lydia (Rosario Flores), who is also in a

coma. It is revealed that Benigno is an obsessive with no real ties to Alicia; she has become his after falling into unconsciousness, and the depth of his devotion becomes both a love story and a horror story. By the end, Almodovar flips the script and demands not just sympathy but also empathy for someone you wouldn't think deserved it. It's a movie about being trapped in various kinds of prisons: spiritual, physical and finally literal. — E. Mitchell. (R) 1 hour, 52 minutes. B

"TEARS OF THE SUN": The Bush administration couldn't have ordered up a better piece of propaganda for American military might. This action movie doesn't have much upstairs, but is loaded with naive, crowd-pleasing gumption. The Nigerian government is overthrown by bloodthirsty rebels, and Bruce Willis and his trusty squadron of Navy SEALs are sent into the jungle to rescue a white doctor (Monica Bellucci). Problem is, she wants to bring all her patients, which requires a dangerous slog through the jungle, rebels in hot pursuit. Action fans might find the movie a little slow, since Willis is at his most somber, and director Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day") favors realism in the combat scenes. — M. Pols. (R: strong war violence, some brutality and language.) 2 hours. C+

"25TH HOUR": Tragedy inspires art as Spike Lee directs an absorbing, smart movie set in the landscape of a post-Sept. 11 New York City. Edward Norton plays Monty, a nice Irish-Catholic boy from the wrong side of the tracks who started dealing drugs to get ahead way back in high school and never stopped. But the law has caught up with him, and Monty is headed to jail for seven years. In his last day, he tries to settle some scores and catch up with old friends, a sharp stockbroker (Barry Pepper) and sad-sack schoolteacher (Philip Seymour Hoffman, brilliant as usual). Norton sometimes sounds as if he's giving a monologue when he's actually opposite other actors, but otherwise, the acting is top-notch through this drama. Lee's best movie in years. — M. Pols. (R: strong language, some violence.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. B+

"WILLARD": You know you're in for something more than straightforward scares from a horror movie starring Crispin Glover, the actor who has turned quavering eccentricity into performance art. The new movie tells the same story as the original — Willard's father is dead, his mother is all but bedridden and his boss bullies and berates him. Once Willard ventures into the basement, he discovers the answer to his repressed rage. First he befriends a cute white rat, then a few fat rat he names Ben, and then a few thousand of their pals. With no logic or explanation, Willard is able to communicate with and command the rats, and soon graduates from petty acts of vandalism to vengeance-is-mine acts of terror. — T. Maurstad. (PG: terror/violence, some sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. C

theater

FROM PAGE C3

ance Chafra is credited program with properties, a high five for a moon-contrived bovine. "Great Celestial Cow" 18 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Saturdays through April 6. Tickets from \$16 to \$19 depending on the day of the week. Discounts available. Call 510-851-5185.

"OLIVER BE IN 'OLIVER!': For a chance, kids, and adults who'd like to sound like the denizens of London in the 1830s. Tonight it's casting time in Valley — of those perennial fall "Oliver!" the musical by Charles Dickens' "Twist."

Oliver will be held at 7 p.m. on March 31 and April 1 and 2. Tickets: Coffee Emporium, 495 Mare Island Ave., Callbacks are set for 4 p.m. same time and place. Child and older are encouraged to attend. One-minute mono-

logue, a ballad and an upbeat song and bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Or, if you like, auditioners may bring a CD or tape and player for accompaniment. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for dance auditions.

David Schuster of Vallejo is directing. John Montanero of Vallejo is musical director. Choreographer is Pamela Loretz of Sacramento.

"Oliver!" will play Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays July 7 through Aug. 2.

For more information, call Judith M. Brown, managing director, Vallejo Music Theatre, at 707-265-0733.

Some "Oliver!" trivia: When the London import opened on Broadway in January 1963, critics were underwhelmed, calling it a "jolly bad show" — fake British witticism — and "popperetta." However, the public found it unfailingly appealing. Still does.

Probably the biggest twist on poor little Oliver was Disney's 1988 animated "Oliver & Co.," in which the orphan was depicted as a kitten (the voice of Joey Lawrence) who falls in with a pack of dogs who are taught to steal by Fagin (voiced

by Dom DeLuise). Billy Joel put the words in the mouth of the canine Artful Dodger, simply called Dodger in the cartoon.

"REMEMBER 'RABBIT' LINE?": It may have been some time since you've seen this powerful play on stage or perhaps the 1939 movie with Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney Jr. But a couple of lines of dialogue should bring it into focus, clear and wincing: "Will there be rabbits, George?"

"Yeah, Lenny. There'll be rabbits."

You probably know by now the speakers are two Depression-era drifters in John Steinbeck's classic novel "Of Mice and Men."

Lenny is a man-child, an untutored little boy in the body of a dangerously strong man. George is his friend, solid and cunning, who does the thinking for both of them. Their bond and loyalty is about all they have going for them in their harsh and hopeless world.

All, that is, except the near-hopeless dream of someday owning their own place. Now, they have landed jobs as ranch hands to try and save enough

money to buy the vision.

Lenny loves to pet soft, furry things. George calms Lenny's childish distractions by promising to let him tend the rabbits.

Then the ranch boss' soft, sensuous and promiscuous wife appears on the scene and the men's lives are changed forever.

"Of Mice and Men," featuring Karl Erickson as George and Bob Leach as Lenny in this Marin Classic Theatre production, opens April 4, in The Playhouse, 27 Kensington Road, San Anselmo. Artie Gilbert directs. It plays at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, through April 19. Tickets range from \$10 to \$18, varying with days of performance and discounts. Call 415-892-8551 or visit www.MCTheatre.com.

Jack Tucker's column runs Fridays in the West County Weekly. Send items of interest to him c/o the West County Times, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@ctimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.



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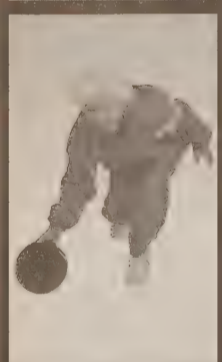
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Tote cuisine: beyond the bologna sandwich

By MARIA GALLAGHER

Traditional bologna sandwiches are being challenged by a new breed of gourmet sandwiches. These sandwiches are made with high-quality meats, cheeses, and vegetables, and are served on artisanal bread.

These gourmet sandwiches are being served at a variety of restaurants and cafes throughout the city. They are a perfect choice for a quick lunch or a light dinner.

For more information on these gourmet sandwiches, visit our website at www.gourmet-sandwiches.com.

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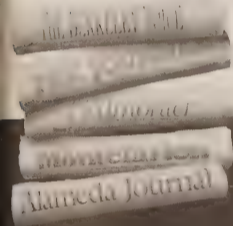


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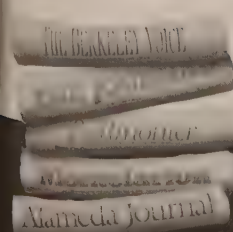
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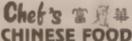
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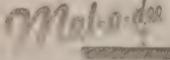
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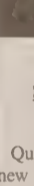






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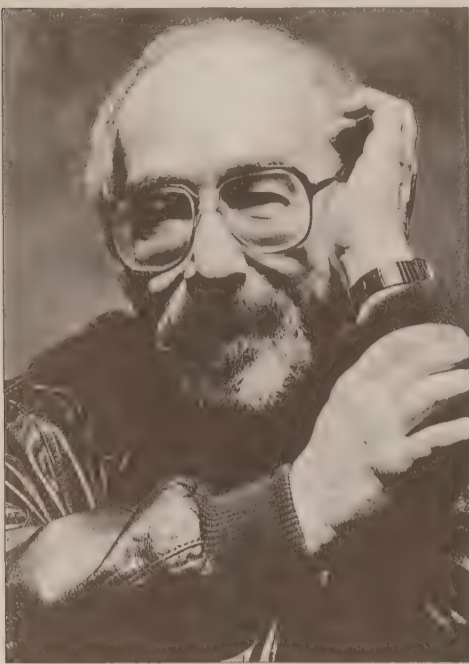
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Island-hopping

BAY AREA JAZZ PIANIST MARK LEVINE has won widespread acclaim for his Afro-Cuban-inspired jazz. Levine and his band, Latin Tinge, will celebrate the release of their latest CD, "Isla," with two shows Monday night at Yoshi's nightclub. Mark Levine and Latin Tinge perform 8 and 10 p.m. Monday at Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. Tickets are \$10. Contact 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com.

Events

FROM PAGE C9

Free to ticket holders.

Stuttgart Ballet, James Tuggle conducting, March 27 through March 29. The world-renowned ballet company will be performing a choreographed "Romeo and Juliet." \$36 to \$56. UC Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9568 or www.cafperfs.berkeley.edu

EAGLES HALL ZYDECO CAJUN DANCES — Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m.

\$11 to \$13. 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 415-285-6285 or cdehome.mindspring.com/Eagles/c/online-eagles.html

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS — East Bay Dance Festival, March 28 through March 30. A diverse mix of contemporary dance from different troupes in the East Bay, including Mark Foehring Dance Project, Savage Jazz Dance Company, Janice Garrett and Dancers, Pauve Dance, Danny Nguyen Dancers and Musicians, Navarette's Works, Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble and Fellow Traveler's Performance Group. \$14 general; \$12 children, seniors and students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org

"PRAISES FOR THE WORLD: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, DANCE AND WORDS" — March 22, 7 p.m. The California Institute of Integral Studies presents this community concert ritual that celebrates communities and honors our beautiful but endangered world. The concert features the music of Jennifer Berezan and includes a mix of 50 musicians, dancers, poets and ritualists including Alice Walker and Gloria Steinem. Proceeds benefit CIIIS's Women's Spirituality Diversity Scholarship Fund and Peoples' Grocery. There will be a post-concert party.

\$30 to \$50 general; additional \$25 for Post-Concert Party. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. 415-575-6165 or www.ciiis.edu/life/long

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Ceili," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

great way to discover nature with your child. The program offers outdoor exploration and a theme-related craft and snack. For children 3 to 5 years of age, accompanied by an adult. Registration required. \$8 to \$8.

"Estuary Explorers: Whales, Blowholes, Blubber and Baleen," March 27, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. This class includes outdoor exploration and a theme-related craft and snack. Parents are encouraged to drop off their child to allow for an independent nature experience with a naturalist guide. For children 6 to 8 years of age. Registration. \$8 to \$8.

"Dive In!" March 28, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Take a dry dive in the Old Wharf Classroom, then explore the coastline. Be prepared to get muddy as you meet crabs and other animals.

"Meet the Shorebirds!" March 29, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and March 30, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about the visiting and resident shorebirds and how their beaks and feet help them survive.

Free unless otherwise noted. 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

OAKLAND ZOO — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna" with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahali Pa Tambo (Place of the Elephant) with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space developed for the two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

EXHIBIT — "Mountain Lions!" ongoing. An exhibit designed to educate people about the mountain lion, its habitat, physiology, history in California, and myths that surround these mammals. In addition there is a film titled "Cougar, African Predator" by the Discovery Channel in the Children's Theater. At the Education Center. Open daily during Zoo hours. Free with regular Zoo admission.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Birds, Bagels and Binoculars," March 22, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Bird specialist Phil Gordan leads an early morning hike through the Zoo. Weather permitting. Registration required. 510-632-9525, ext. 142. Fee included.

"International Migratory Bird Day," March 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn what you can do to help ensure the future of migratory birds as they travel to and from their winter homes. Watch a bird of prey demonstration and how to make bird call and bird watching techniques. Free with Zoo admission. \$7.50 general; \$4.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

USS POTOMAC — Visit the 165-foot presidential yacht USS Potomac, called the "Floating White House" when it was refurbished at the beginning of World War II for use by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The yacht has been restored to its World War II splendor and visitors may tour the ship or take scheduled cruises. Dockside Tours, ongoing. Tours of the Potomac at the dock are 45 minutes.

Tours canceled when weather is bad and the decks are too slippery to be safe; call ahead if the weather is rainy. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 3:15 p.m. \$5 general; \$3 seniors; free youths age 17 and under.

USS POTOMAC FDR Pier, Foot of Clay Street, northwest end of Jack London Square, Oakland. Potomac Visitor Center: 540 Water St., Oakland. 510-839-8256 or www.usspotomac.org

REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK — "Llama Day Hike," March 29 and March 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Experienced llama packers will guide this 4- to 6-mile day hike and the llamas will carry your picnic lunches and personal items. You will have the opportunity to lead a llama for part of the trip. Cancellations will not be accepted two weeks before the trip. This event is for children 8 years and above. Registration is required. \$35 to \$39. \$4 for parking. 7861 Redwood Road, Oakland. 510-636-1684 or www.ebparks.org

ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here.

"Ridgeline Wonders," March 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn what life was like in the wilds of Oakland. Explore the past, present and future look of the area and look inside the Chabot Space and Science Center. For youth 7 and over. Registration required. Free. Skyline Boulevard, 1/2 mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

ROBERT SIBBLE VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE — East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the hills. Free. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — "Kids Garden Club," March 22, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Led by Kate Scott, children will learn about native plants.

"Weathermanial," March 22, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Learn about the different kinds of weather and how to make instruments to measure it.

"Farms to Food," March 23, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet the residents of the Little Farm and sample products grown by them and learn how California farms feed the nation. Registration required.

"Lamb-O-Rama," March 23, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Meet the rams and ewes in Tilden's farm of black sheep. Enjoy a story, snack and make a lamb of your own. Registration required. \$5-\$7.

"Soapmaking," March 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn about the soap that you buy in the store and then, how to make your own natural, vegetable-based version. Bring rubber gloves. Ages 9 and over. \$4.

"Tea at Four," March 24, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy some of the best teas from the other side of the Pacific Rim and learn their natural and cultural history. Registration required. 510-525-2233. \$5 to \$7.

"Nature Exploration," March 26, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Discover the magic of metamorphosis by focusing on the life cycle of Hyla. Registration required. 510-525-2233. \$3.

"Intro to Golf," March 28, 10 a.m. to noon. Have fun in a relaxed atmosphere and learn the essentials of golf. An introductory clinic teaches fundamentals and golf balls and loaner clubs are provided. You'll receive a free \$20 range card for the driving range and a \$20 off a future class. Registration required. 510-636-1684. \$5 to \$56.

"Workin' Like a Dog," March 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a lunch, a plastic bag,

a leash and your dog for a long hike. Meet at Meadows Playfield across from the Pony Ride. 510-525-2233.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day. Most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Free unless noted otherwise. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-525-2233 or www.ebparks.org

UC BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants. "Wildflower Photography," March 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join Bob Case, veteran photographer, in an all day workshop. You'll learn landscape and close-up techniques. Two rolls of film provided. Bring a standard camera, any accessories and a bag lunch. \$75 to \$95. Registration required.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children; free on Thursday. Through Sept. 2; Daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 510-643-2755 or www.mjb.berkeley.edu/garden

EXHIBITS

ART IS EDUCATION — A month-long celebration of the visual and performing arts in education taking place across Alameda County. Artists, students and teachers at different venues showcase the power of arts education in children's lives. The event is sponsored by The Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, an arts partnership in Alameda County.

"Oakland Vibrant Arts," through April 18.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. State of California Office Building Atrium, Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery, 1515 Clay St., Oakland. 510-238-6952 or www.oaklandculture.org

"Art IS Education in Alameda Schools," through March 31. An exhibit of artwork from Alameda School students. South Shore Shopping Center, Otis and Park, Alameda. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Art IS Education in Emeryville," through March 31. An exhibit of artwork from Emeryville School students. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Avenue, Emeryville.

"FUSD Arts: Emerging Brilliance and Beauty," through March 31. Willits Art Gallery, 3755 Washington Blvd., Fremont.

"Teachers Thinking about Assessment through the Arts," through March 31. An exhibit by the East Bay California Project. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alameda County Office of Education, 313 West Winton Ave., Hayward.

"Art is Education Awards Ceremony," March 29, 5 p.m. Featuring a performance by the Oakland Youth Chorus and Opera Piccola, this event is to honor arts education leaders in Alameda County.

Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-887-0152 or www.aoce-artsseducation.org

Free. Corazon Del Pueblo, 4814 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-887-0152

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OPERATIVE GALLERY — "Gala Reopening Exhibition," through April 8. Featuring the work of 12 artists in mixed media, collage, etching, acrylic, watercolor, wood, photography and bronze and resin. Free. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527.

BERKELEY ART CENTER — "Katherine Westerholt: Photographs on Canvas," through April 5. Featuring large-scale pictures of deserted San

Francisco Bay Area. Fox Theatre and Building in Oakland. Artist Talk: March 22, 7 p.m. Free. Wednesday through noon to 5 p.m. Berkeley. 510-843-2527

CREATIVE GROWING — Berkeley. More than 100 organic and heirloom seeds. Free. Monday, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$36. 2340 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527

EAST BAY WOMEN — March 22, 7 p.m. 30 Ancestral. Kelly Butler. Free. Royal. 510-843-2527

GRADUATE THEATRE — March 22, 7 p.m. 30 Ancestral. Kelly Butler. Free. Royal. 510-843-2527

HALL OF FIDELITY — March 22, 7 p.m. 30 Ancestral. Kelly Butler. Free. Royal. 510-843-2527

KALA ART INSTITUTE — Contemporary. March 29. Ancestral. Kelly Butler. Free. Tuesday. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$36. 2340 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527

LAWRENCE HALL OF ARTS — "Playing With Time." In this highly interactive and multimedia presentation, visitors can watch young people interpret modern art. cannot see unless. \$8 general. \$2 youth. ages 5 through ages 3 to 4. \$4. 7:30 p.m. Sunday. 5000 MacArthur Blvd. 430-2164 or www.oaklandpubliclibrary.org

MILLS COLLEGE ARTS APART — "When Artists Whose Work Includes: including painting, sculpture, digital media, photography and video. piece's intent is a of differentiated objects. March 22. 7 p.m. Free. Tuesday. Thursday. 7:30 p.m. Sunday. 5000 MacArthur Blvd. 430-2164 or www.oaklandpubliclibrary.org

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Friday, March 21, 2003

Section D

MARY JACKSON
Down the Road

hybrid
get more
per gallon

MOTOR MATTERS

Next time you prepare to buy a new car, you may want to think about a different type of vehicle: The new hybrid that run on two power

Many consider them for the reasons other people are buying them: they save money on gas, they get so many miles to the gallon, they pollute far less than other vehicles and they're often

Maybe you like them because they look cool, in kind of a way.

Here's a short course on how different hybrid cars work. A gas engine and an electric motor work together to power the car, and a computer decides whether to use the gas engine, the electric motor or both. For example, when you're coasting, the gas engine turns off and the electric motor charges the bat-

ter. On the other extreme — when you're pressing the accelerator to go, both the engine and the electric motor work to give the vehicle the power it needs. It's pretty much the same technology.

It's this time for you to buy a hybrid vehicle? Maybe you're not — depending on your needs.

Imagine a soccer mom who needs to transport kids, sporting equipment, overloaded backpacks,

WOMEN, Page D4



MOTOR MATTERS

NISSAN MAKES sixth generation Maxima attractive for 2004 with sporty lines, luxurious appearance, sophisticated technology and quality. It also has the option of four or five seats and of Skyview Roofs composed of two individual open roofs for those seated in the front or back.

Nissan creates an upscale sporty sedan in 2004 Maxima

MOTOR MATTERS

If you're unable to make up your mind what type of vehicle you want, give consideration to the 2004 Nissan Maxima. This sedan has numerous characteristics.

The Maxima is an attractive vehicle with sporty lines and a luxurious appearance. It is technologically sophisticated and powerful, and exuberates a quality far above the norm.

And these impressions are not deceptive. Merely get behind the wheel, and you'll soon agree with this analysis.

First, a little background on the Maxima. This is Nissan's top-of-the-line vehicle and has been since it was introduced in 1980.

The 2004 model is the sixth-generation and is loaded with desirable improvements.

At first glance, the most obvious is its muscular appearance, with sharp, chiseled lines. Although it has a sporty style, especially with the way the C-pillar makes it look like a coupe, it retains the element of sophistication.

This car is not exactly an import as it is now being assembled in

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

Smyrna, Tenn., which is one of the top assembly plants in the country.

Quality assembly is a necessity for the Maxima as it features optional Skyview Roofs composed of two individual open roofs for those seated in the front or back.

Another option is the choice of four or five seats. The four-seater allows passengers in the rear to en-

joy the sports-car feeling

To build a car with two "holes in the roof" requires extra rigid body strength. This rigid body allows the construction of a suspension that can handle sharp turns with complete agility, similar to what is expected of a true sports car.

In a sense, the Maxima can be configured as a sports car depending upon the choice of the SE or SL models.

Although I drove both vehicles, this report zeros in on the more expensive SL model that offers more luxurious appointments.

However, the SL is only available with 17-inch wheels while the SE has 18-inch wheels as an option and a sports-tuned suspension.

Both cars are powered by a 3.5-liter, V6 engine producing 265 horsepower — not the fastest car in the world but certainly has enough get-up-and-go acceleration to enjoy any open, winding road.

As for fuel economy: 20 miles per gallon city and 27 mpg highway.

See KEANE, Page D2

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One-of-a-kind 45-year love affair with a 1956 Bel Air

MOTOR MATTERS

It was about 45 years ago when a preacher showed up in Ed Johnson's home town driving a snazzy red-and-white 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air two-door hardtop. The preacher was welcomed by the congregation, but the flashy car with the chrome-plated stylized jet airplane engine hood ornament had to go.

That's when Johnson saw his opportunity. In 1957, the young man purchased the new preacher's one-year-old Chevrolet. "I loved that car," Johnson said.

He must have been very fond of it because during the next seven years he drove the car almost 300,000 miles. During that era it was rare for any automobile to eclipse the 100,000-mile mark.

"The transmission was about ready to leave me," Johnson recalls, "so I sold it in 1964."

Twenty years passed before Johnson acknowledged to himself that he missed his old, 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air and began looking for a replacement. He found a few 1956 Chevrolets that had been hot-rodded and some that had been customized and more than a few that were mostly rusted away. After a year or so of fruitless searching, he gave up.

Naturally, that's when he found what he had been after — virtually in his own back yard. Johnson bought the Chevrolet in November 1986. Except for being green and white, the automobile was identical

VERN PARKER Classic Classics

to the car he had owned back in the 1950s.

When new, the Chevrolet had a base price of \$2,176. Once Johnson had his new/old Chevrolet home, he set about returning it to like-new condition.

He wanted a car with no plastic filler in the body. Consequently, all the plastic filler that was there already was removed, along with any rusted metal. Healthy, rust-free steel was put in place. "I welded it myself," Johnson recalls.

While he was returning the shapely body of the two-door hardtop Chevrolet to showroom condition on its 115-inch wheelbase, the 265-cubic-inch V8 engine with a dual-exhaust system was rebuilt.

The Powerglide transmission was serviced and found to be in good condition. Johnson had the car repainted in the same two-tone color scheme as his original 1956 Chevrolet with a white top over a matorador red body. The appropriate parts of the interior — the dashboard and window frames — were painted red to match the exterior color.

In 1956, the 3,222-pound Chevrolet left the factory equipped with the extra-cost options of an AM radio, power steering, power brakes, a heater and full wheel covers.

Behind the wraparound windshield, a design element that was



MORE THAN 20 years pass before owner finds another Chevy Bel Air to match the one he sold in 1964 with almost 300,000 miles.

all the rage in the late 1950s, was a full-size, shoulder-wide, two-spoke steering wheel.

Nestled prominently in the dashboard is the 120-mph speedometer. With the renowned Chevrolet V8 engine equipped with a power pack, reaching the top indicated speed is a very real possibility.

The interior of the car has undergone a transformation. The carpet is now red. Typical of many General Motors cars in 1956, the headliner consists of a white perforated material.

The seats and door panels match the color of the car, as does the steering wheel. The wheel has a flashy, 360-degree chrome horn ring.

With the Powerglide transmission functioning properly, Johnson finally realized his goal in September 1995 when he drove his fully restored Chevrolet on its 6.70x15-inch white-sidewall tires on its maiden tour. It's always a treat to pull into a gasoline station and watch the attendant search for the gas cap, which is cleverly hidden behind the left taillight, he said.

A quick twist of the key above the red battery light assembly keeps his 1956 Chevrolet Sport close at hand. And copies of the model factured, he treats it of a kind

Race car builder Carroll Shelby doing 80 in fast lane

MOTOR MATTERS

Legendary racer and sports car builder Carroll Shelby turned 80 earlier this year.

This seems like an appropriate milestone to look at his illustrious career in the rearview mirror, even though he shows little sign of slowing down.

Shelby turned his racing hobby into a business after service as a pilot in World War II and subsequent failed attempts at other businesses, including a chicken farm at which the chickens died.

He had caught the eye of team manager John Wyer and landed a spot on the mid-1950s Aston Martin racing team.

In 1958, teamed with Roy Salvadori, Shelby won the famed LeMans 24 Hours for Aston Martin.

A year later, a heart ailment forced him to give up driving.

He then turned to building cars, creating one of the fastest road cars ever, the Shelby Cobra, and later Shelby Mustangs and Cobra Daytonas Coupes, which captured the World Manufacturer's Championship in 1965.

A Shelby-led group of Ford GT40s took two consecutive victories at LeMans in 1966 and 1967.

In the early 1980s, Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca commissioned Shelby to create a series of Chrysler-Dodge high-performance vehicles, including the prototype for what became the Dodge Viper.

Later, Shelby manufactured his CSX4000 series Cobra S/C Roadsters and Shelby Series I exotic sports car.

Today, Shelby American is still building performance cars, including the CSX7000 series Cobras.

"The highlights (of my career) absolutely were winning LeMans as a driver and then going back and building the Cobras that won the world championship — the Ford GT



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MICHELLE KREBS She's Freewheeling

LeMans in 1966 and 1967," Shelby told me in our interview.

"It's been interesting to build automobiles," he added. "But it is very difficult for small companies because of all of the federal regulations."

By the time you get through the bureaucracy, you'll have a 3-foot-long gray beard. It's no place for a little company alone. You have to be associated with a big company," Shelby is thrilled to see au-

tomakers focusing on performance once again, as Ford is with the upcoming introduction of a modern Version of the Shelby's GT.

"All big companies are finally realizing you don't build cars just for money. You have to create an image for your company," he noted.

"Companies listened to the bean counters on why racing and performance were a waste of money. Now we're seeing budgets for performance divisions again."

Shelby thinks the phenomenon of young people modifying their small Japanese imports, as glamorized in the now out-film "The Fast and the Furious," is among the

most interesting trends occurring today.

It reminds him of his own hot rod days in the 1950s when people set up drag strips around the country.

He's been known to be among the 100,000 people on a Friday night attending races of these so-called "pocket rockets" at a track in Palmdale not far from his home.

"These amazingly brilliant kids who understand electronics are doing things as we did, but they're taking a Honda Civic and running 900 horsepower and 175 mph through a front-wheel drive — which they said couldn't be done — to make these \$30,000 pocket rock-

ets. "It is amazing. It's the fastest growing cottage industry as far as performance."

While Shelby is befuddled by people paying as much as \$5 million at auctions for his Daytona coupes and \$390,000 for Mustangs he built, he looks to the future.

He's got a new car in the prototype and testing phase, being built by his Las Vegas company. He won't reveal many details until it is unveiled at the 2004 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

He also remains involved with Goodyear racing tires. And he's still developing an en-

"The highlights (career) absolutely were winning LeMans as a driver and then going back and building the Cobras that won the world championship — the Ford GT LeMans 1966 and 1967"

gine with no conventional trailla company.

Advanced Engine is developing the Cook-off competition help emerging country dependency on fossil fuels.

On the non-race Shelby, still owns a cook-off competition consists of 500 off-road and a champagne. Nev., that draws 400.

While he has said making company, he a new chili he parts Internet called Cobra it combines the best cook-off recipes.

He maintains a in Texas with a special tie from Rhode Island.

And he is active tion he and his own heart. Shelby ago to help ch problems.

"I faced immortality 30 days. Shelby says problems.

"After the victory I never dream of I'm living life to the

Keane

FROM PAGE 1

The SL is equipped with a four-speed automatic transmission while the SE has a five-speed automatic with a manual shift. Both have a gated shifter.

My preference is the more expensive SL model that costs \$28,900 compared to the \$26,950 for the SE model. This SL also includes as standard equipment a 329-watt

Bose audio system with AM/FM cassette, six CD-disc player and eight speakers.

This system has a speed-sensitive volume control. Another upscale touch is a satellite radio system.

Other features depict more of the upscale components. Each model comes with a driver memory system that allows the driver's seat position, steering wheel and outside mirrors to be programmed.

It also includes driver's seat lumbar support, heated steering wheels and all the nice treatment one expects of a top-of-the-

line four-door sedan.

For those who really want to be pampered — at an additional cost — there is a DVD navigational system with 7-inch color display screen, rear center console, auto up/down windows, heated rear seat, 12v power point outlets. For added safety, Vehicle Dynamic Control with traction control also is available as an option.

Add it all up, and the all-new Maxima has everything, ideal for anyone who wants it all but is not sure of what.



2004 NISSAN MAXIMA SL

Vehicle Type	Four-passenger four-door FWD sports sedan
Suggested Retail	\$28,900
Engine Type	DOHC 24-valve, 3.5-liter V6 w/SMPEFI
Horsepower	265 at 5,800 rpm
Torque	255 at 4,400 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic w/gated shifter
Wheelbase	111 inches
Overall Length	193 inches
Overall Width	72 inches
Curb Weight	3,467 pounds
Fuel Capacity	20 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 20/27
Strong Feature	Solid, stable ride
Weak Feature	Nothing worth mentioning

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GM hybrid pickups to clear path toward fuel-cell era

General Motors' hybrid trucks will be the first to carry the torch of GM. The automaker says these hybrid trucks will help preserve the environment and help GM succeed in the fuel-cell market boom.

Wagoner, GM's president of commercial vehicles, announced the 2003 North American Truck Show in Detroit that GM will introduce a full-size hybrid Chevrolet and GMC Sierra pickups scheduled to be available in 2004.

Wagoner says this is part of a plan to introduce hybrid vehicles that will bridge the gap between internal combustion engines and fuel-cell vehicles.

The first hybrid pickups will be for commercial fleet operation, followed in early 2004 by those for retail sale. GM's hybrid truck lineup is scheduled to expand in 2007 with the Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon sport-utility vehicles.

The Silverado and Sierra hybrid systems combine with the 5.3-liter Vortec V8 found on its standard pickups. The output is 285 horsepower and 325 foot-pounds of torque, making the trucks capable of hauling heavy loads, towing and climbing hills.

"At the same time," Stephens said, "this hybrid system will create a 10 to 12 percent savings in fuel economy."

Hybrid technology features a compact electric motor that's neatly integrated between the engine and transmission. This motor replaces the conventional starter motor and alternator.

"The electric motor provides fast, quiet starting power," Stephens said, "and the ability to generate up to 14,000 watts of continuous electric power."

He said electricity generated by the system has a number of uses: it may be stored in a 42-volt, lead-acid battery pack for future use; employed to support on-board electric accessories; and used to operate power tools or other appliances off a pair of 110-volt, 20-amp outlets in the cab and bed.

As more 42-volt accessories are developed, Stephens said this electrical system will accommodate them.

Hybrid technology enables pickups to be more fuel-efficient by stopping and starting the engine at idle. Regenerative braking also contributes to the system's efficiency by transforming the motor into a generator during periods of deceleration.

When the pickup is braking or coasting, the system conserves fuel by quickly shutting off the supply. Applying the transmission torque converter clutch in early second gear — allowing the electric motor to smooth out resulting vibrations — is another fuel-savings trick.

Fuel economy will be improved another 5 percent to 8 percent in 2007, Stephens said, when the engine adds Displacement on Demand technology.

These engines save fuel by using only half the cylinders during most normal driving conditions. When full power is needed, all eight cylinders are put to use.

In addition to fitting its full-size pickups and SUVs with hybrid technology, Stephens said GM will offer a Saturn VUE with an Advance Hybrid System in the latter half of 2005.

TIM SPELL
Truck Talk

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GENERAL MOTORS is putting hybrid technology into its full-size pickups beginning this fall.

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Different from the pickup's hybrid system, Saturn's system combines the power of GM's 2.0-liter Ecotec four-cylinder engine with the "excellent" torque and efficiency of twin electric motors.

"With this advanced hybrid system and other vehicle system improvements, drivers can expect fuel

economy gains of up to 50 percent,

he said.

"At the same time, we will improve 0-60 and 50-70 mph performance, thanks to GM's advanced components and control electronics."

Along with delivering direct and measurable benefits, Stephens said GM's early hybrids are the first major step in helping GM realize its critical long-term goal of being an industry leader through the mass marketing of fuel-cell vehicles.

Quick fix for squealing brakes, cause must be found first

We've been having problems with my brakes squealing at times while stop-

ping. The brakes were replaced about a year ago and the noise comes back. The noise comes and goes, but often diminishes if by pressing on the pedal.

Can it be done to rid this annoying noise? I live in Santa Clarita, Calif.

Brake squeal is a common concern and is caused by vibration of the disc brake pads. There are several factors that contribute to this unwanted occurrence.

Wear of the pads, due to worn or missing springs, clips or insulators, or improperly bent retaining pins cause brake squeal.

Pad composition is also important. There are dozens of differing formulas in use — some better than others for specific purposes.

Semi-metallic pads are great for stopping power but are more prone to make noise than softer organic pads (organic material is no longer used but the term remains to describe a host of nonmetallic friction materials).

Pad condition also is a concern. Brake pads that have been overheated are likely to be noisy and suffer from reduced effectiveness due to glazing (a hardened glossy effect) of the pad surface.

I should add that many brake pads contain an audible wear sensor — a metal tab that drags on the brake rotor when the pad wears thin.

The annoying chirping/squealing noise created by the tab is most noticeable when the brakes are not applied.

What can be done to rid your car of this nail-on-chalkboard serenade? Start by determining if the noise is originating from the front or rear of the car. (Ask a helper to listen from the sidewalk as you come to a stop at the curb).

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

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Many vehicles now have disc brakes in

the rear (rather than drum brakes), and they might be the source of the noise.

Next, the brakes will require inspection. If faulty pad retaining hardware (only) is found, you might be able to reuse the existing pads.

Many techs apply a small amount of anti-squeal compound (a rubbery goop) to the back of the pads, which helps reduce vibration and absorb noise.

If your pads and/or brake rotors show signs of overheating or surface defects, it's best to start over with a full brake job. Pre-

mium quality pads (engineered specifically for noise reduction or other qualities) are a good investment, and usually cost only \$10 to \$20 more than standard pads.

These often contain ceramic filler material, chamfered edges, strategically placed grooves or slots, and more effective insulating shims. Ceramic content pads also produce less visible brake dust to spoil the appearance of your wheels.

When shopping for brake service, don't look at price alone. Premium pads, a brake hardware kit (springs and clips) and rotor

resurfacing might be necessary to ensure quiet, long-lasting performance.

Moderate use of new brakes during the first week of operation can improve long-term braking performance, as the pads are allowed to fully cure without overheating.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in Santa Jose, Calif. E-mail him at bergholdt@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal replies.

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Women

FROM PAGE D1

and groceries at the same time, these cars won't work for you.

Two of the hybrids available now — the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight — are compacts, both have front-wheel drive and four-cylinder engines.

The Prius, which has an automatic transmission, is a four-door sedan that holds four people. The Insight, a hatchback available only in a manual transmission, holds two people. The cars are roomier than you might expect, but they still aren't big enough for many families.

If you're someone who wants to reduce dependence on oil or cut down on how much you poison the planet every time you drive your car, these vehicles are a good choice because they use less gas and, therefore, produce less toxic emissions.

According to Sierra magazine, emissions from U.S. cars are the largest single contributor to the gases that cause global warming. These hybrids contribute much less.

The Prius gets 45 miles per gallon in city driving (52 on the highway), while the smaller Insight gets 61 in the city (70 on the highway).

Both cars cost approximately \$20,000. The cost of annual maintenance is about the same as that of a conventional car.

A potentially expensive problem is having to replace the hybrid's special batteries. If that happens after the warranty runs out, it could cost you thousands of dollars.

(The warranties are as follows: For the Prius, it's eight

years/100,000 miles for the batteries and hybrid systems; three years/36,000 miles for the rest of the car. On the Insight, it's eight years/80,000 miles for the batteries and most of the powertrain; three years/36,000 miles for the rest of the car.)

And when it comes to vehicle upkeep, you'll have to take your hybrid car back to a dealer for recommended maintenance and probably for repairs, too. Your trusty mechanic might not have a clue what to do with these new vehicles.

Resale value remains an unknown.

Driving a Prius or Insight is a much quieter experience, if that's important to you. When I first drove one of the early hybrids, I couldn't help but think how weird it was not to hear the sound of the starter when turning the key. In addition the engine shuts down when the car comes to a stop.

I found the quiet extremely appealing, once I stopped panicking, thinking the engine had stalled. When I got back into my gasoline-driven sedan, the normal noise seemed annoying.

There's also the business of refueling. Personally, I hate having to go to gas stations, as it's just one more burden on my busy days. At anywhere from 45 to 70 mpg gallon, you'll be passing gas stations, not pulling in to them.

And maybe the hybrid cars are for you if you like to be on the cutting edge and you enjoy new technology. When you're driving a Prius or Insight, you'll get to see when the system is recharging itself — what fun! — and the instrumentation is remarkable.

They're not extremely pow-

erful vehicles, but during my test-drive I felt perfectly comfortable driving around Los Angeles, even when merging into fast moving freeway traffic.

In slowing down a little, you'll be able to enjoy the looks you're getting from fellow drivers who appreciate the fact that you're helping to keep the earth inhabitable for their kids and grandkids.

Many Jackson is the author of Car Smarts, a layperson's guide to cars (Avalon Travel Publications, 1999). Her Web site: www.womenatthewheel.com



Forum at Towe Auto Museum celebrates Ford's centennial

SACRAMENTO — The Towe Auto Museum is proud to announce a Ford Centennial Forum; a seminar on the Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford, a man bigger than life who pioneered the development of the car industry.

This seminar, on March 29, will provide an in-depth look at Henry Ford as the man who taught the manufacturing age how to build vehicles on an assembly line; whose friends were presidents and entrepreneurs shaping the world, and who built a giant auto company that bears his name and is still run by succeeding generations of his family.

The forum is a full day of lectures, slide presentations and a book signing all highlighting the Ford Motor Company.

The fascinating story behind Henry Ford who twice failed before he founded the Ford Motor Company at age 39, is being offered from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. in honor of the company's Centennial — 100 years of active production of Ford vehicles.

Featured lecturer Mike Skinner, a Dearborn, Mich. native, will present five lectures/slide shows throughout the day on "Ford — The Man and the Company."

Skinner is a member of the Henry Ford Estate Advisory Board, Dearborn Historical Society Board member and past president, a Grosse Pointe Historical Society Board of Trustees member and past president, a renowned Ford historian and current president of the Henry Ford Heritage Association in Detroit, Mich.

Another guest lecturer will be Henry Dominguez, from the San Francisco Bay Area, an author of the Ford Motor Company with a newly released book on Edsel Ford.

Dominguez will give a lecture on Edsel's impact at the Ford Motor Company despite the explosive relationship between father and son.

The forum will also include our own museum's experts on Ford history.

The day of activities will start with presentations from the Towe Auto Museum's docent course on the Model A Fords, the Ford Model B and the Early Ford V8s by docent class instructors, Bill Millard, Dave Martin and Milt Webb at 9 a.m., running until lunch which will be served at noon.

The afternoon will begin with Skinner's talk about Ford's first automobile factory, the birthplace of the Model T — The Piquette Plant, followed by some of Ford's non-manufacturing activity — the Ford hydro mills projects and the Ford homes historic district story.

Dominguez will provide the latest information about Henry's son, Edsel, and his influential role at Ford despite Henry's volatile attitude toward his son. Skinner will close the afternoon session with a fantastic show about the friendship of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison — "A Friendship of Giants."

Following a no-host reception and catered dinner, Skinner will present a special lecture and slide show titled "One Hundred Years of Ford — A Historical Perspective of Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company."

The cost for this full day of fascinating Ford history will be \$50, which includes lunch and dinner. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

An option for the seminars without meals is available at a cost of \$30 with advanced registration. At the door the forum will cost \$40 without meals.

Come to the Towe Auto Museum on March 29 for a look into the life of Henry Ford, one of America's pioneering industrialists and one of the world's richest men, to learn what effect he had on our lives.

This is the ultimate Ford history lesson for all car enthusiasts.

The forum will be held in the Towe Auto Museum at 2200 Front St., Sacramento, just a block off Broadway. Call the museum at 916-442-6802 for registration and details.

Ford exhibit

To celebrate the achievements of the Ford Motor Company through its first 100 years, the Towe Auto Museum also is presenting a special "Ford Century" exhibit.

Sponsored by Suburban Ford, the display opens March 29 and continues through July 31.

The exhibit tells the fascinating story of Ford, who failed twice before starting the Ford Motor Company in 1903 at the age of 39. Each decade is showcased with cars and history of the period.

Focus of the exhibit is the major developments of Ford Motor Company and their national and global impacts on our society.

This is perhaps best illustrated by a nose-to-nose display featuring a red 1903 Model A and a red 2003 Thunderbird on loan from Suburban Ford.

The museum at 2200 Front St. is located just south of Old Sacramento and a block off Broadway.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$3 for high school age, \$2 for grade schoolers and free for children 5 and younger.

Regular museum hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

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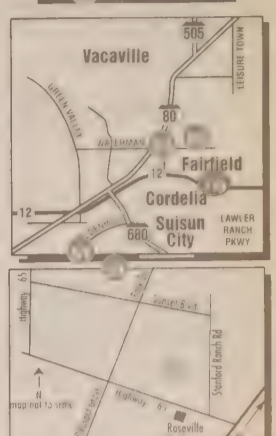
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Who is

favorite team?

SPORTS

Friday, February 21, 2003

Section C

1 • V

Alameda triples its pleasure

■ Hornets drill nine 3-pointers to outlast El Cerrito in an ACCAL matchup

By Scott Strain

Live by the "3" or die by the "3" — and Alameda lived. The Hornets (11-2) led on the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League's top-time 3-point shots, including seven by sophomore guard Nicole Catana, and won a 79-71 Thursday night game in the Hornets' Nest in Alameda.

The loss knocked the Gauchos (17-4, 10-2) one-and-a-half games behind the Hornets in the ACCAL. Alameda has three league games left, El Cerrito two. The Gauchos still have to play Berkeley.

Alameda was coming off an

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

excruciating 81-58 loss to Berkeley on Tuesday and came out a bit ragged against El Cerrito, which it had defeated 57-54 in El Cerrito on Jan. 17. The Gauchos, on the other hand, had trounced El Cerrito (6-31) on Tuesday, shutting out the Jets 19-0 in the first quarter.

"Personally I wanted it more because we lost to Berkeley," Calandri said. "I thought we were just as good as Berkeley, so I took that (loss) out here tonight."

With Calandri firing in four 3-pointers in the first half, the Hornets had a 39-17 lead at the half. Alameda's Lucia Isalinda fired in eight of her 10 points in the first half, including two 3-pointers.

The game swung permanently away from El Cerrito in the first few moments of the third quarter.

Nicole Catana stole the ball from Analiese McGrew underneath the Alameda basket and scored for 41-37. The Gauchos turned the ball over immediately after that and Calandri hit another 3-pointer for 44-37. El Cerrito called timeout with 7:05 left in the period and already had turned the ball over three times.

The visitors never got back into it. Alameda extended the lead to 60-49 with eight seconds left in the third quarter and the Gauchos, their inside game evaporating, were forced to go to the perimeter to get back into the game.

"I thought it was our battle on defense," Calandri said about the effort against El Cerrito. "If the defense wasn't there against Berkeley, I thought we held back against Berkeley; we didn't do that tonight."

The key to Calandri's success was ball movement. The Gauchos

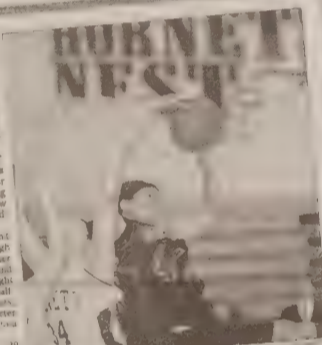
simply didn't get around the perimeter fast enough to challenge her. When she got the ball, she was open. She had the time to plant, set and shoot.

"It was a bad job of coaching," El Cerrito coach Ron Williams said. "That's it. I'm serious. Our substitution patterns were wrong and didn't work. Those first few moments of the third quarter did not help either."

And when Calandri couldn't do it, she had more than enough help. Catana scored six of her 10 points in the third quarter and Christina Hernandez had six of her points in the second half.

Yamir Willis had 12 points, including six in the first quarter when the two teams battled 19-19 tie.

Calandri finished with 29 points to lead all scorers. Marquis Green had 23 points to lead El Cerrito and Jordan McCormick had 14.



EL CERRITO HIGH'S Analiese McGrew (right) gets a rebound over Alameda's Lucia Isalinda in their ACCAL game.

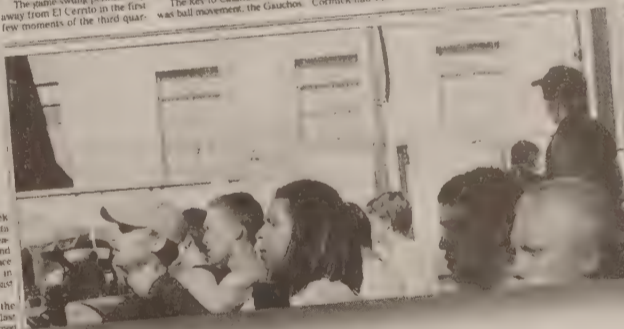
ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Oilers set for NCS opener

By Orlando Molina

After a brief postponing week to end the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League boys' soccer season, league champion Richmond High School is gearing up to face its first opponent tomorrow in the second round of North Coast Section 1A play.

At the start of the week, the Oilers, the No. 1 seed after last



BSAL NOTEBOOK

Canceled games hurt Salesian

By Scott Strain

The Salesian High School boys' soccer team had two Bay Shore Athletic League matches scheduled to be in the Builders' and they may have over their heads. Salesian finished the regular season with a 9-4 record. The cancelled matches might have

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What are

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Auto Plus

Friday, August 24, 2001

Section D

Advertising supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmont, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices begin to rise, so do the claims for gas-saving devices.

Not so coincidentally, a growing number of gas-saving devices are being advertised by companies that have no real track record.

Full-time car dealer, Fredrick, Texas, Community has acquired the rights to be the exclusive distributor for a variety of gas-saving devices.

Automotive Development and Sales, a company based in the same area, also advertises a variety of gas-saving devices.

Most of these devices claim to save money by improving the efficiency of the engine.

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TOM KEANE

Acura in Wire

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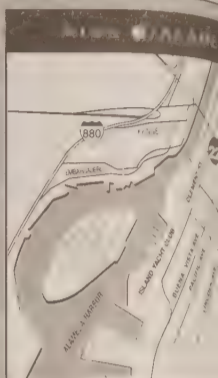
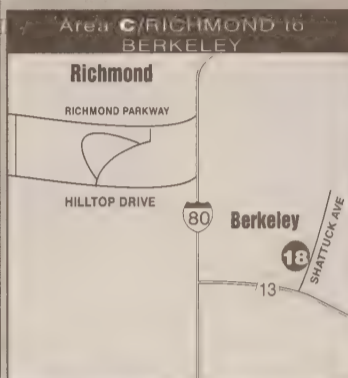
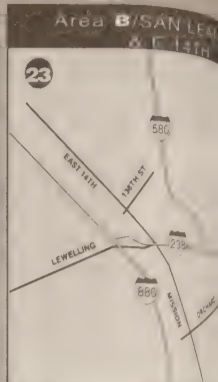
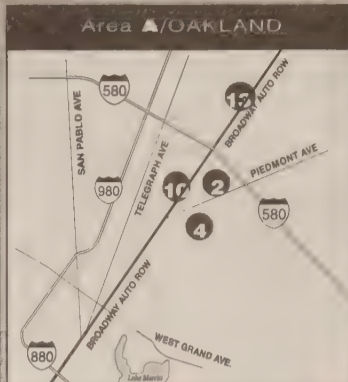
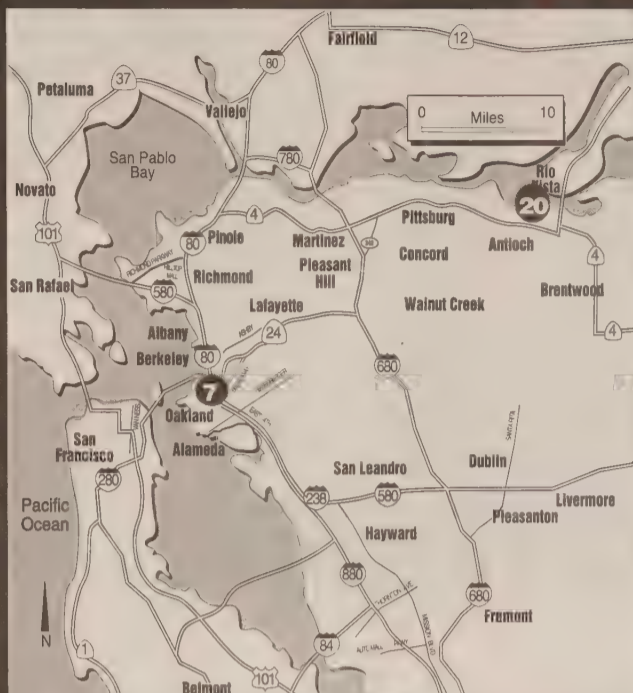
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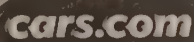
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Friday, March 21, 2003

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

'Perfect Cakes' comes very close to perfection and without intimidation

BY KRISTIN EDDY

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Baking isn't always a science, you know. But Nick Malgieri, a highly regarded baking author, makes a convincing argument in his new book, "Perfect Cakes" (HarperCollins, \$37.50). Although the title might be a little intimidating to some people, the book doesn't intimidate at all. It's beautifully formatted, clearly written, and the photos give one hope that perfect cake — tall, proud, and delicious — could really be in the future. Malgieri handles his topic expertly, giving plenty of help for the new baker, including tips for handling ingredients, suggestions for purchasing fruits, nuts and flavorings, and even cookware sources and directions for the more experienced cooks.

Do the recipes work? Yes. We tried three cakes in the Tribune test kitchen, all of which would be a pleasure to make. There were a lot of styles to choose from — coffee cakes and cakes to be layered, rolled and decorated. Nut cakes get a chapter, as do chocolate meringue cakes. It's a batter

of our choices were for many people already have tried: banana and pound cake. Why choose banana cake? It can seem deceptively simple, but it can be hard to find a true banana flavor, moist and crackly top. Malgieri's delivered on all counts and besides. The loaf cake gets a chapter on oil and sour cream, allowing it to be just as nice as a cream cheese poundcake might also seem like an

easy project, but poundcakes often come up short, turning out dense, dry, too moist or too cracked. Malgieri not only offers a terrific recipe, he also lists hints for how to make poundcake perfect and why these steps matter (see sidebar). Our quibble was with the rum glaze; tasters unanimously agreed that it was too thick — more of a frosting — and needed a little more rum punch.

The standout of our tests came in a presentation of tangy lemon curd sandwiched between white cake layers and a swirly chapeau of toasted meringue. Ta-da! This lemon meringue cake is a looker. Although two tasters thought the cake layers were a bit heavy, the rest loved the whole package.

Did the test kitchen find Malgieri's book "perfect"? Not quite — but certainly close to it.

Recipes

"Many poundcakes are baked as loaves, but I find that poundcakes have an excellent texture and superior lightness when they are baked in a tube pan," Nick Malgieri writes in "Perfect Cakes." "A tube pan also bakes the cake more quickly because of the heat conducted into the center of the pan through the tube, and this makes for a moister cake."

CREAM CHEESE POUNDCAKE

Cake batter:
2 cups bleached all-purpose flour (spoon flour into measure cup and level off)

1 teaspoon baking powder
½ pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

1 8-ounce package cream cheese (I use Philadelphia), softened
2 cups sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla extract
6 large eggs, at room temper-

ature

Rum glaze:

3 cups confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons white rum
2 tablespoons water

One 12-cup tube or bundt pan, buttered and floured

1. Set a rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 325 degrees.

2. Stir the flour and baking powder together in a bowl, mixing well.

3. Place the butter, cream cheese and sugar in the bowl of a heavy-duty mixer and beat on medium speed with the paddle attachment until very light, about 5 minutes. Beat in the vanilla. One at a time, beat in 4 of the eggs, beating until smooth after each addition.

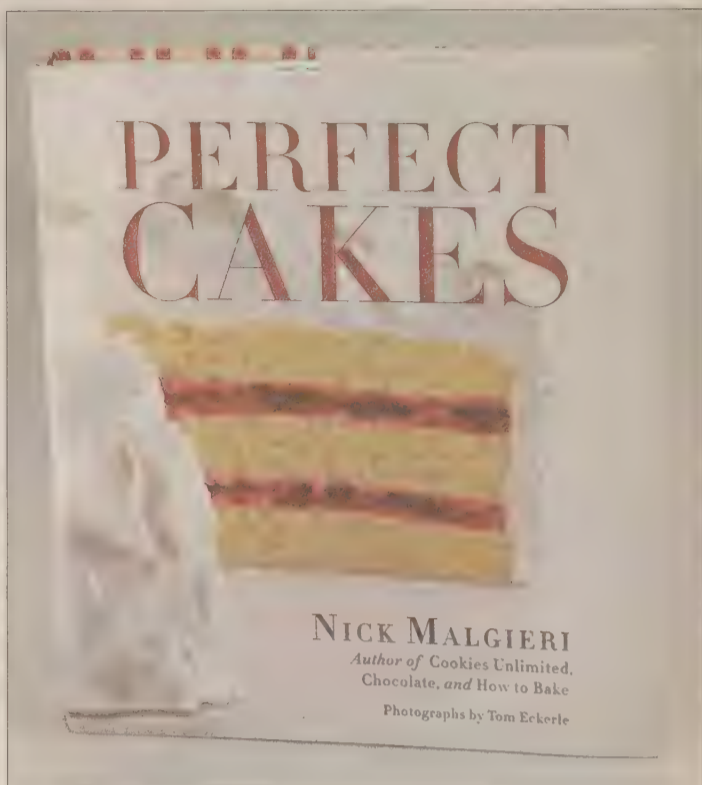
4. Reduce the mixer speed to low and beat in one-third of the flour, then another egg, beating until smooth after each addition. Stop the mixer occasionally to scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Beat in another third of the flour, then, after the flour has been absorbed, the last egg. Scrape again and beat in the last of the flour.

5. Use the rubber spatula to give a final mix to the batter, then scrape it into the prepared pan and smooth the top.

6. Bake for about 65 to 75 minutes, or until cake is well risen, cracked on top, and well-colored and a toothpick inserted into the center emerges dry.

7. Cool the cake in the pan for a few minutes, then unmold it onto a rack and turn right side up to finish cooling.

8. To make the glaze, combine the sugar, rum and water in a medium saucepan and stir until smooth, then heat over very low heat just until lukewarm. Drizzle over the cake with a spoon, or use a parchment paper cone, or pour



BOB FILA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NICK MALGIERI, a highly regarded baking author, makes a convincing argument for getting out the mixing bowl in his latest book, "Perfect Cakes" (HarperCollins, \$37.50).

the glaze over to cover the entire cake.

Storage: Wrap cake in plastic wrap and then foil to ensure it doesn't dry out, and serve within a few days. For longer storage, wrap and freeze; defrost, loosely covered, at room temperature. If you intend to

freeze or otherwise keep the cake for more than a day, don't glaze it until the day you intend to serve it.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 65 minutes, makes one 10-inch tube or bundt cake, about 16 servings.

"By the way, the secret to get-

ting the most vivid banana flavor is to mash the bananas with a fork, not to puree them in the food processor," Nick Malgieri writes in "Perfect Cakes."

See CAKES, Page 2



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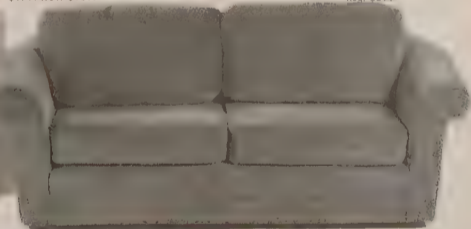
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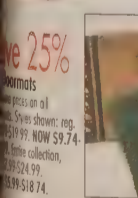
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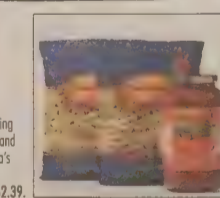


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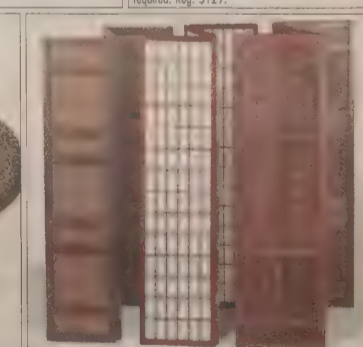
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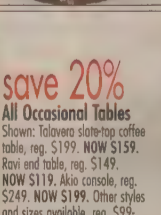
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Savory sun-dried tomato meat loaf

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Comfort food" may sound pillowy and plump, but it can qualify for a low-fat tag, too. It can even have flair and flavor—as in this slimmed-down recipe for sun-dried tomato meatloaf, stylishly bathed with red currant wine sauce.

The red currant jelly and wine make a quick, rich sauce that's a nice change from the typical ketchup topping. The recipe by Barbara Seelig Brown comes from a feature in the March issue of *Cooking Light* magazine that offers readers instructions on how to double the meals they get from each recipe: Cook half to eat now, freeze half for later.

If you decide to freeze one of these meatloaves, make half the amount of red currant wine sauce now, and half when you bake the frozen meatloaf later. Serve the meatloaf with mashed potatoes.

SUN-DRIED TOMATO MEATLOAF WITH RED CURRANT WINE SAUCE

For the meatloaf:
Cooking spray

Three 1-ounce slices white bread
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 cup (4 ounces) grated fresh Parmesan cheese
½ cup thinly sliced fresh basil
1/3 cup sun-dried tomato sprin-



AP PHOTO/RANDY MAYOR/COOKING LIGHT

SUN-DRIED TOMATO MEATLOAF with red currant wine sauce is comfort food that qualifies for a low-fat tag, and has flair and flavor, in this slimmed-down recipe from *Cooking Light* magazine.

kles
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
4 garlic cloves, minced
2½ pounds ground turkey breast
2 large eggs
For the sauce:
½ cup red currant jelly
¼ cup dry red wine
1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
Coat two 8-by-4-inch loaf pans with cooking spray; set aside.

To prepare meatloaves: Place bread in food processor; pulse 10 times or until coarse crumbs form. Combine bread crumbs, onion,

cheese, basil, tomato sprinkles, parsley, garlic, turkey and eggs. Divide meat mixture in half. Press each portion into prepared pans.

Bake at 400 degrees for 55 minutes or until a meat thermometer registers 180 degrees.

To prepare sauce: Combine jelly, wine and flour in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook 5 minutes or until jelly melts.

Makes 10 servings, 5 per pan (serving size: 5 ounces meatloaf and about 1 tablespoon sauce).

To freeze unbaked meatloaf: After meat mixture is pressed in pan,

cover with plastic wrap, pressing to remove as much air as possible. Wrap with heavy-duty foil. Store in freezer for up to 2 months.

To prepare frozen unbaked meatloaf: Thaw completely in refrigerator (about 24 hours). Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove foil; reserve foil. Remove plastic wrap; discard wrap. Cover meatloaf with reserved foil; bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 45 minutes or until a meat thermometer registers 180 degrees. Prepare half of red currant wine sauce; serve over meat loaf.

Classic Swedish meatballs

BY ELLEN HAWKS

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Ruth Wick of Lenoir City, Tenn., sent in a short request. "I would like the recipe for classic Swedish

meatballs." Sandi Till of Sunriver, Ore., responded. "Here are Swedish meatballs that were my family's favorite for a very long time—45 years.

My three children always loved them, and now five grandchildren enjoy them, and I hope you like them too, Ruth! We love them on fluffy rice or noodles."

SWEDISH MEATBALLS

1 pound ground beef

1/2 pound ground pork
1/2 cup minced onion
3/4 cup fine dry bread crumbs
1 tablespoon minced parsley
2 teaspoons salt, divided use
1/4 teaspoon pepper, divided use

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 egg
1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon paprika

2 cups boiling water
3/4 cup sour cream
Combine meats with onion, bread crumbs, parsley, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, 1/8 teaspoon pepper, Worcestershire, egg and milk.

Shape mixture into balls the size of walnuts.

Brown in 2 tablespoons vegetable oil on all sides, removing them in batches to a plate as the meatballs brown.

When all meatballs have been cooked and removed, add flour,

paprika, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and remaining 1/8 teaspoon pepper to the fat in the pan.

Cook for 1 minute over medium heat.

Stir in boiling water and sour cream until mixture becomes smooth.

Return meatballs to gravy and cook 15 to 20 minutes.

Serves 6 to 8.

Tester Laura Reiley's comments: "It's a classic dish, one that is usually associated with party

food eaten with

This is the traditional version of the Swedish pork knöcke, a little like the pork tenderloin, a little like the pork tenderloin, a little like the pork tenderloin.

The paprika has a slight kick, but the flavor, 1/2 cup white wine substituted for 1 cup of the fat could be

of the fat could be the meatballs browned.

Cakes

FROM PAGE 1

FRESH BANANA LOAF CAKE

3 ½ cups all-purpose flour (spoon flour into dry-measure cup and level off) plus 1 tablespoon
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups (about 8 ounces) walnuts or pecans, coarsely chopped
1 cup dark raisins
2 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
4 large eggs
1 ¼ cups vegetable oil, such as corn or canola
1 8-ounce container sour cream

1 tablespoon vanilla extract
3 cups mashed very ripe bananas (about 8 medium)

Two 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pans, buttered and bottoms lined with buttered parchment or wax paper
1. Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees.

2. Stir together the 3 ½ cups flour, the baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon in a large bowl, mixing well. In a medium bowl, toss the nuts and raisins with the remaining 1 tablespoon flour.

3. Place the brown sugar in a large mixing bowl and add the eggs one at a time, stirring with a rubber spatula. (Adding the eggs gradually to the sugar makes them incorporate more smoothly than the standard way of adding the sugar to the eggs, preventing lumps of brown sugar from forming.) Switch to a whisk and whisk the mixture for a few seconds to lighten it. Whisk in the oil in a stream, then whisk in the sour

cream and vanilla.

4. Use a rubber spatula to fold half the flour mixture into the egg mixture. Stir in the mashed bananas. Fold in the remaining flour mixture, then fold in the nuts and raisins. Scrape the batter into the prepared pans and smooth the tops.

5. Bake for about 70 to 80 minutes, or until the cakes are well risen and a toothpick inserted into the center emerges clean.

6. Cool the cakes in the pans for 5 minutes, then unmold onto a rack and turn right side up to cool. Remove the paper after cooling.

Serving: This is a good plain cake, but it can also be served with lightly sweetened vanilla- or rum-flavored whipped cream.

Storage: Wrap the cooled cake in plastic and keep at room temperature for up to several days, or double-wrap and freeze for longer storage.

Preparation time: 25 minutes, cooking time: 70 minutes, makes two 9-by-5-inch loaf cakes, about 16 servings.

Lime or tangerine may be substituted for lemon in this cake, according to Nick Malgieri in "Perfect Cakes."

LEMON MERINGUE CAKE

Lemon curd:

3 large lemons
¾ cup sugar
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
8 large egg yolks
2 9-inch layers classic white cake, see recipe

Meringue:

¾ cup egg whites (from about 6 to 7 large eggs)
1 cup sugar
1. To make the lemon curd, finely grate the zest from 2 of the

lemons. Squeeze and strain the juice from all 3 lemons; there should be about ¾ cup. Combine the zest, juice, sugar and butter in a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat. Strain out the zest and return to a boil.

2. Meanwhile, beat the yolks in a bowl until they are liquid.

3. Beat ¼ of the boiling liquid into the yolks, and return the remaining liquid to a boil. Beat the yolk mixture into the boiling liquid and continue beating over medium heat until it thickens slightly. Do not allow the lemon curd to boil, or it will scramble. Pour the lemon curd into a clean bowl, press plastic wrap against the entire surface, and chill at least 3 hours.

4. To assemble, slice each layer horizontally in half, making a total of 4 layers. Stack the layers, spreading one-third of the lemon curd between each layer.

5. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

6. To make the meringue, combine the egg whites and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and whisk gently until the egg whites are hot and the sugar is dissolved. Attach the bowl to the mixer and whip with the whip at-

tachment until the meringue has increased in volume and is cool.

7. Spread the meringue over the top and outside of the cake, reserving about ¼ to ½ cup for finishing. Using a pastry bag fitted with a star tube (such as Ateco 824), pipe a decorative design on the top.

8. Place the cake on a cookie sheet and bake for a few minutes to color the meringue.

Serving: Serve the same day you color the meringue.

Storage: Keep at cool room temperature until serving time. Refrigerate leftovers.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 40 minutes, chilling time: 3 hours, makes one 9-inch cake, about 12 servings.

"The fine, moist crumb of this cake makes it perfect for any type of filling or frosting," writes Nick Malgieri in "Perfect Cakes."

CLASSIC WHITE CAKE LAYERS

2 cups all-purpose flour (spoon flour into dry-measure cup and level off)

2 teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
12 tablespoons (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, softened

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Tips on baking to perfection

BY KRISTIN EDDY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Science is just as much a part of a good cake as sugar. Following are some tips from Nick Malgieri's "Perfect Cakes" for making the most of your batter:

Poundcakes and butter cakes:

■ Always start with very soft butter.

■ Don't rush the mixing — many of these batters are leavened only by the air beaten into them during mixing.

■ Always have eggs and any liquids as close to room temperature as possible, and add them to the batter gradually. Adding liquid too quickly, or adding too much at a time can make a cake batter separate, resulting in a heavy, greasy texture instead of a light one.

■ For a loaf cake, line the pan or at least the bottom with parchment paper.

■ If the top of a cake baked for a long time seems to be coloring too deeply, cover the cake loosely with aluminum foil. Placing the cake pan on a heavy cookie sheet or jellyroll pan will protect the bottom of the cake from coloring too deeply.

■ Cool poundcakes in the pan for a few minutes, then invert onto a rack or board. Invert again so that the cake cools

completely. To store cakes, wrap them tightly in plastic wrap for at room temperature to a couple of days longer.

■ Although

feecakes, power served in the cake favorite beverage slices of a pound lightly toast them with butter or jam.

Alternating liquid ingredients:

■ Many of the for alternating liquid ingredients when to the batter. For any butter cake, and with in writes.

"Here's why the base of these cakes absorb a lot of liquid, the butter is too much liquid for the butter will reach its melting point, and a separated batter absorbed liquid in the pens, the cakes will

"So it's far easier adding just some to the butter and sugar, then add the rest with the flour. The batter bakes in a separation. For the these ingredients rated in five additional, flour, liquid,

food eaten with

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Time to get cooking — serve tasty, satisfying meals faster

BY MARILYNN MARTER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

PHILADELPHIA — Whether your day is spent in an office, in a home mothering and doing the housework, there's only so much you can get a meal on the table. Michelle Kindt of Newtown, Pa., nearly always cooks dinner for her husband, Joe, and one of their sons — Chris, 23, a student at Chestnut Hill College and Cliff, 22, a musician.

During her dietetics internship, Meagher said, she cooked several meals on Sundays for the week ahead. The former lab technician had gone back to school after the birth of her second child, and the added responsibilities demanded careful time management.

She eventually gave up cooking ahead, she said, because her family doesn't like reheated food.

For kitchen relief, the Meaghers eat out once a week, on Saturday nights. It's a family tradition. "And we get takeout usually once a week, either pizza or Chinese," Meagher said.

Meagher relies on her pressure cooker to speed up preparation of such scrumptious favorites as beef stew and bean soup.

Planning ahead and keeping a well-stocked pantry are key to serving satisfying meals. For a really quick meal, Meagher turns to linguini with clam sauce. By making the sauce as the pasta boils, an organized cook can serve the entree, a salad, and warmed garlic bread in about 20 minutes.

For the sauce, saute a chopped onion and some minced garlic in a lightly oiled skillet for 4 minutes. Add 1/2 cup dry white wine, 1/2 cup juice drained from 2 cans of minced clams, 1/2 teaspoon basil or oregano, and a pinch of cayenne pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 4 minutes. Add clams and heat for 2 minutes. Serve with hot, cooked pasta.

Not all weeknight meals need to be cooked quickly. Some home cooks rely on an oven timer to start frozen or nonperishable food cooking before they get home from work.

But even without a slow cooker or self-starting appliance, you (or anyone else at home at lunchtime) can begin slow-cooking a meal by putting it in the oven at low heat at midday. Beef Stew Casserole cooks up tender and ready to serve when the family gets home five or six hours later.

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Twenty-six percent of all meals cooked at home, NPD found, but 45 percent are spending less time in the kitchen making those minutes or less. The survey shows only 35 percent of meals made "from scratch," compared to 41 percent a decade earlier.

Half of all main meals are with combos. Just 56 percent of home cooks were served with more side dishes, compared to 61 percent in 1991.

Half of the readers we talked to outside jobs. All six claim they use ready-to-eat convenience or take-out. But everyone is sometimes taking advantage

of convenience foods. The degree and definition of "convenience" is wide-ranging, from prepared frozen entrees, packaged piecrusts and jars of heat-and-eat tomato-based sauces to starters such as Tuna Helper and seasoned pasta or rice mixes (Near East, Rice-A-Roni, etc.).

Cake mixes are also popular with these cooks. But then, many cooks these days think of using a cake mix as cooking "from scratch."

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Italian seasoning and garlic salt until blended. Soak bread in egg mixture for 2 minutes on each side.

4. In a shallow pan, coat each slice of bread in the bread crumbs.

5. Grill sandwiches on a greased hot griddle until golden brown on both sides and cheese is melted.

6. Serve with Sausage Bean Soup, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

From "The What's-for-Dinner Cookbook," by Kathleen Botta and Claire Mendonca (Cumberland House, \$16.95).

SAUSAGE BEAN SOUP
1/2 pound bulk Italian sausage
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 (15 1/2-ounce) can butter beans, rinsed and drained
1 (14 1/2-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
1 (14 1/2-ounce) can beef broth
1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

1. In a large pot, cook the sausage, onion and garlic over medium heat until sausage is browned. Drain excess fat.

2. Add the beans, tomatoes, broth and basil. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

3. Serve sprinkled with grated cheese. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

From "The What's-for-Dinner Cookbook," by Kathleen Botta and Claire Mendonca (Cumberland House, \$16.95).

PEPERONATA
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 (8- to 10-ounce) sweet onion, cut into 1/4-inch slices
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
4 red and/or yellow bell peppers (cored, seeded and white ribs removed), cut into 1/4-inch strips
1/4 teaspoon kosher (coarse) salt
1 tablespoon tomato paste
3 tablespoons water
1/4 cup minced fresh basil and/or flat-leaf parsley
2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts or sliced, pitted black olives, such as kalamata (see note)
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

1. Heat the oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat until hot but not smoking. Add the onions and garlic and cook, stirring often, until onions begin to color, about 5 minutes. Stir in the peppers and salt.

2. Cover and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the peppers begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally, until peppers are soft, about 10 minutes.

3. Stir in the tomato paste and water. Cook until the liquid has evaporated, about 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Stir in the basil, pine nuts or olives and the black pepper. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 4 (1/2-cup) servings.

Adapted from *A New Way to Cook*, by Sally Schneider (Artisan, \$40).

Note: Toast pine nuts in a skillet over medium heat, shaking pan constantly, until golden brown, about 3 minutes.

Recipe may be doubled or tripled. Peperonata may be served over pasta, potatoes, rice or risotto or with chicken, pork, meat loaf or other entrees. Use it as a base for grilled shrimp. Layer it with ricotta and noodles in lasagna. Spread on garlic toast for bruschetta or add to chicken broth to make soup.

BEEF STEW CASSEROLE
2 pounds beef (for stew), cut into bite-size cubes
1 1/2 cups thickly sliced carrots
2 onions, coarsely chopped
4 to 6 potatoes (about 2 pounds), peeled and cubed
1 cup chopped celery
2 tablespoons salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 (10 1/2-ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 cup burgundy wine
1/2 cup water
1 dried bay leaf, crumbled fine

1. Combine the beef, carrots, onions, potatoes, celery, salt and pepper in a 4-quart, oven-safe casserole or baking dish.

2. Stir together the mushroom soup, wine, water and bay leaf. Pour over beef-vegetable mixture. Cover tightly.

3. Bake in a preheated 250-degree oven for 5 hours.

Note: This dish can be assembled in advance in 15 to 20 minutes, then put in the oven midday to be ready for dinner. It also can be held at 250 degrees about an hour past the cooking time without drying out if kept tightly covered. Makes 8 servings.

Adapted from *The Ultimate Casserole Cookbook*: 175 Great One-Dish Recipes, by Barbara C. Jones (Sterling Publishing, \$17.95 softcover).

Cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

2. Cover and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the peppers begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally, until peppers are soft, about 10 minutes.

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Note: Toast pine nuts in a skillet over medium heat, shaking pan constantly, until golden brown, about 3 minutes.

Recipe may be doubled or tripled. Peperonata may be served over pasta, potatoes, rice or risotto or with chicken, pork, meat loaf or other entrees. Use it as a base for grilled shrimp. Layer it with ricotta and noodles in lasagna. Spread on garlic toast for bruschetta or add to chicken broth to make soup.

BEEF STEW CASSEROLE
2 pounds beef (for stew), cut into bite-size cubes
1 1/2 cups thickly sliced carrots
2 onions, coarsely chopped
4 to 6 potatoes (about 2 pounds), peeled and cubed
1 cup chopped celery
2 tablespoons salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 (10 1/2-ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 cup burgundy wine
1/2 cup water
1 dried bay leaf, crumbled fine

1. Combine the beef, carrots, onions, potatoes, celery, salt and pepper in a 4-quart, oven-safe casserole or baking dish.

2. Stir together the mushroom soup, wine, water and bay leaf. Pour over beef-vegetable mixture. Cover tightly.

3. Bake in a preheated 250-degree oven for 5 hours.

Note: This dish can be assembled in advance in 15 to 20 minutes, then put in the oven midday to be ready for dinner. It also can be held at 250 degrees about an hour past the cooking time without drying out if kept tightly covered. Makes 8 servings.

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Tips for busy cooks

BY MARILYNN MARTER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

■ Look for recipes that do double duty or more. Peperonata, a garlicky vegetable sauce, can be incorporated into, or served with, dozens of dishes, including pasta, chicken and meat loaf.

■ Keep staple and specialty condiments and sauces on hand to add high-powered flavor and polish to simple foods.

Anchovy paste, unsalted butter, capers, chile (flakes, powder and sauces), fresh garlic, fresh ginger, mustards (honey and Dijon), dry sherry (not cooking sherry, which is salted), dark/black soy sauce (also called mushroom soy sauce), and vinegars (cider, rice and wine) are among the basics.

More exotic flavors, such as Thai or Vietnamese fish sauce, Chinese hoisin sauce, and Asian oyster sauce are also exciting options.

■ Think stir-fry, saute, grill and broil.

■ Bite-size pieces and thin cuts (whether carrots or steak) cook faster than whole vegetables or large roasts.

Even frozen boneless chicken breasts pounded to 1/2-inch thickness cook in just 10 minutes (5 minutes per side) on a grill or in the broiler. (If thawed, cook just 4 minutes per side.)

■ Get double value for your time in the kitchen. When cooking pasta or beans or a sauce, double the recipe when possible. Refrigerate the extras and plan to use them for another meal within three days, or freeze them.

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TUNA CASSEROLE with linguine, portobellos and red sauce. A quick and stylish dish for any table.

Delicious Lenten seafood nourishes body and soul

NAPSI
The 40-day period of fast-
preparation for Easter, has
the church calendar since
the second century. Early
began a tradition of eat-
on Wednesdays and Fri-
memory of Christ's fasting
days in the desert.
Lent is supposed to be
the soul, the season is fa-
proving culinary cre-
challenged to spark up her
Lenten diet, a medieval
invented bouill-
the now classic seafood
that incorporates numerous

species of fish. The abbees must
have lived close to the sea, but
these days, thanks to modern pro-
cessing and transportation, we en-
joy a tremendous variety of seafood
throughout the year.
If you, like the abbees, need
some inspiration to come up with
meatless Lenten meals, follow her
example and look to seafood.
Seafood makes delicious Lenten
suppers a snap to prepare and a
healthy menu choice. In fact, eat-
ing fish twice weekly is a good idea
year round, not just during Lent.
Every kind of seafood contains
some heart-healthy omega-3 fatty

acids, so you can enjoy a wide va-
riety of fish and shellfish.
In addition to being a top nutri-
tional choice, seafood is perfect for
today's busy families. A complete
seafood dinner can be ready in a
half hour or less and still have the
eye and taste appeal to spark clean
plates in even the youngest family
members.
Inspirations for Lenten seafood
entrees, salads, appetizers and
snacks (as well as great seafood
recipes for all times of the year) are
just a click away at www.about-seafood.com.
This recipe for Mexican Shrimp

Pilaf from the National Fisheries In-
stitute covers all the bases: It's a
complete meal for a family of four
incorporating the important "five-a-
day" servings of veggies along with
high protein, palate-pleasing shrimp
in a yummy rice mixture topped
with kid-friendly chips and cheese.

MEXICAN SHRIMP PILAF
1 package (8.8 oz.) Spanish rice
and vermicelli mix
2 tablespoons margarine, melted
2 cups water
1 can (14 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
3/4 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 cup zucchini, chopped
1/2 cup frozen whole kernel corn, thawed
2 tablespoons ripe olives, sliced
2 tablespoons tortilla chips, crushed
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated
2 tablespoons green onion, chopped
1 jar picante sauce
Saute rice in margarine in a large skillet until golden, stirring frequently. Slowly add water, seasoning packet from rice, and tomatoes; bring to a boil.
Cover; reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in shrimp, zucchini, corn and olives; cover and simmer 5 to 10 minutes or until shrimp are pink and rice is tender. Transfer to serving bowl. Sprinkle with chips, cheese and onion. Serve with picante sauce.
Makes 4 servings.



METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

SEAFOOD DISHES can be a delicious way to observe the season.

How to pair pasta with the perfect sauce

BY ALLISON ASKINS
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS
The Olive Garden offers these suggestions for pasta pairings:
■ Delicate angel hair pasta works best with a rich broth or light sauce such as a tomato pomodoro, marinara or pesto.
■ Spaghetti, linguine and

tubular pastas such as penne and ziti are best matched with vibrant sauces that offer chunks of tomatoes, meats and garden vegetables.
■ Fettuccine, lasagna and other flat noodles should be paired with heavier meat or cream-based sauces such as alfredo or bolognese.

Kids contest wants to know about family breakfasts

NAPSI
Breakfast lovers may "flip" over the results of a recent survey — 81 percent of U.S. families make pancakes together at least once a week and 48 percent say pancakes are the easiest breakfast food for their kids to make.
The survey motivated the launch of the "Aunt Jemima Cooking Breakfast With Your Kids Contest" which seeks to inspire and honor families who share a pancake breakfast.
To enter, parents along with their children are invited to send in their favorite pancake recipes and share their family breakfast traditions.

Parents are encouraged to work with their kids to produce a short essay (no more than 50 words) about how their family cooks breakfast together and what makes those morning family moments special. Families must also include their favorite, easy-to-prepare family pancake recipe.
The grand prize is a cash award of \$5,000. To enter and for official rules, visit www.auntjemima.com or call 800-583-0183 for a printed entry form. Contest entries are due by June 9, 2003.
The family that eats breakfast together probably has pancakes together.

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The potato chip turns 150 years old

NAPSI

Perhaps no snack food is more American than the potato chip. And 2003 marks the 150th birthday of this unique treat. The first potato chips were made by George Crum at Moon's Lake House, a resort in Saratoga Springs, New York in 1853.

When a patron complained that his potatoes were too thick, Crum sliced a new batch of potatoes paper-thin, fried them to a crisp, salted them and sent them back out. The fussy patron loved the "crunch potato slices" and snack history was made.

Here are numbers of other facts about potato chips, courtesy of the Snack Food Association.

- It takes four pounds of pota-

toes to produce one pound of potato chips due to moisture loss when cooking.

- Potato chips first became available in grocery stores in 1895 in Cleveland, Ohio.
- The barbecue-flavored potato chip was introduced in 1954.
- Potato chips are a six billion dollar market in the U.S. The potato chip industry employs more than 65,000 people.

To make potato chip history of your own, try this delicious chicken dish.

POTATO CHIP CHICKEN

- 1 20-ounce bag potato chips, crushed
- 1 16-ounce container sour cream

- 2-1/2 pounds chicken tenderloins
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
- Salsa (optional)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Place sour cream in a medium bowl. Dip chicken tenderloins in sour cream, then coat with potato chips. Place coated chicken on greased cookie sheet. Bake chicken 5 minutes, then reduce heat to 375 degrees and bake 10-12 minutes. While chicken is baking, melt butter; add garlic powder. Return oven to 450 degrees and brush garlic butter over each piece of chicken and bake for an additional 5 minutes or until chicken is golden brown. Serve with salsa, if desired.

Makes 12 servings.



POTATO CHIP CHICKEN gets its crunch from a popular snack.

Lenten suppers focus on spirituality — not food — so soup's in

BY CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Soup's on! That's the rallying cry at many churches during Lent.

Lent, observed by many Christian denominations, is the 40-day period leading to the commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday and the celebration of Easter, the feast of his resurrection from the dead.

It's a solemn time, when believers are urged to pray, make sacrifices and live simpler lives. This simplicity carries over into the kitchen, which is why the simple soup supper is a Lenten mainstay at many churches.

"During Lent, you need to feed people something that isn't a glamorous meal," said the Rev. Philip Whitehead, rector at St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church in Columbia, S.C. "Soup fits the bill because it's something that can easily be prepared without meat, and many people try to avoid meat during parts of the Lenten season."

Whitehead's church offers weekly meatless soup suppers on Thursdays during Lent, and holds a special "Agape Meal" on Holy Thursday, which includes lentil soup as a main dish.

At Protestant churches, some soups may have meat in them, but seafood chowders and vegetable soups are very common.

At Catholic churches, many soup suppers are held on Fridays to go along with special Lenten prayers or observances of the Stations of the Cross, which depict events leading to and after Jesus' crucifixion. The soups have to be meatless, because church law requires that adults between the ages of 18 and 60 avoid eating meat on Fridays.

Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church outside Irmo, S.C., will hold special soup suppers each Friday during Lent after the Stations of the Cross. Each week, members of a different church organization will contribute five or six pots of soup to the effort.

Organizer Jackie van Besien said the soups range from potato soup and clam chowders to vegetable soups and oyster stew. The soups are served with pretzels or crackers and coffee or soft drinks.

"The meal is very simple, but that's the whole point of it — we're supposed to ... focus on being together, not on the meal itself," van Besien said.

Geraldine Douglas, a parish-

ioner at Our Lady of the Hills, has been making soup for the Friday night suppers for about eight years. Her contributions include a pasta/vegetable mix called Pasta Soup and cream of broccoli.

Douglas prepares her soup the night before, refrigerates it, then heats it up in crock pots about an hour before the Friday night suppers.

Cooking soup for a large group isn't a big deal, she said. The key is to have a good basic recipe, fresh ingredients, and an idea of whom your culinary audience will be.

"Seasoning is basically a pinch here and a pinch there," Douglas said. "Season your soup according to who you're cooking for. If it's for my family or people I know, I'll alter the seasonings according to our taste. But if not, I pretty much stick to the recipe."

Soup is a good Lenten meal because it's nourishing but not complicated, Douglas said.

"The focus during Lent is supposed to be on prayer and fellowship, and that's what we get at these meals," she said. "You've got something quick and simple that people can enjoy, but it's not so complicated that they're just focused on the food."

Lenten soup recipes:

CREAMY CARROT-PEANUT SOUP

- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 1 pound baby carrots
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 large white or yellow onion, sliced
- 4 1/2 cups water
- 2 cups fat-free milk
- 1 pound baking potatoes, peeled and sliced (about 2 large potatoes)
- 1/3cup creamy peanut butter with salt
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger (or 2 teaspoons ground ginger)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- Place a stock pot over low heat; add oil, carrots, celery and onion. Cover.
- Stir occasionally for 8 minutes or until onions are translucent.
- Add water, milk, potatoes, peanut butter, ginger, salt and pepper. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, until veggies are tender, about 25 minutes.
- In a blender, puree soup in batches. Return pureed soup to

clean stock pot. Adjust seasonings. Heat through over low heat. Makes 6 servings.

Source: National Peanut Board.

RUSTIC VEGETABLE-BEET SOUP

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium onions, coarsely chopped
- 2 medium carrots, coarsely chopped
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 2 zucchini (about 5 ounces each), coarsely chopped
- 2 cans (14 ounces each) vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons each finely chopped fresh parsley and dill
- 1 jar (16 ounces) whole pickled beets, well drained, coarsely chopped
- Gremolata (recipe follows)
- In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions; saute about 5 minutes or until softened.
- Add carrots, sweet potato and garlic. Saute 3 to 5 minutes or until mixed well and vegetables begin to soften.
- Add zucchini, broth and seasoned salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, partly covered, about 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add chickpeas. Heat through. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Stir in parsley and dill. Stir in beets. Serve immediately topped with gremolata, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

Source: www.senecafoods.com.

GREMOLATA

- 1 tablespoon each minced fresh parsley and dill
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- Combine all ingredients in

small bowl and serve on top of soup. Makes 6 servings.

Source: www.senecafoods.com.

AUDREY KING'S HAMBURGER SOUP

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 18-ounce can tomato juice
- 1 cup sliced raw carrots
- 1 beef bouillon cube
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, plus additional to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper, plus additional to taste
- 1 cup diced raw potatoes
- 2 tablespoons snipped parsley
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups milk
- Brown meat in Dutch oven. Drain off fat.
- Add onion and green pepper. Cook until vegetables are crisp-tender.
- Stir in tomato juice, carrots, bouillon cube, season salt, salt and pepper.
- Cover and simmer about 10 minutes.
- Add potatoes and parsley. Cover and cook 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
- Blend flour with 1 cup of milk. Stir into soup.
- Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Add remaining milk. Heat.
- Season to taste with additional salt and pepper. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Source: "Soup Recipes from the 1994 Wednesday Night Lenten Suppers at St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church, Columbia."

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Planes' 'Vicious Dive' is still in business but is now a very popular restaurant

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NEW YORK — In his 1927 book, "The Vicious Dive," Herbert Ascham described the "Hole in the Wall, Water and Dover" dive in lower Manhattan.

After research historian and restaurant critic Alan Richman of New York City school teacher and food writer McDermott read that a few years ago, he dug into old city directories and found that "vicious dive" was a reformed character but still strong — the city's oldest eating and drinking house, in operation since 1734.

Over the centuries it housed notable figures, including the brothers, dance halls, from which the "Shanghai bar," from which might be kidnapped to crew

the 3-story wood-frame building is the well-regarded Bridge Cafe, a favored dining spot for judges and bureaucrats at City Hall, people from the nearby Actors Theatre at Paces, and neighborhood regulars with a taste for good food and

the red with black trim, the cafe sits at the base of the building on the edge of the Five Points neighborhood, and vividly in the current movie "The Italian Job."

There the kitchen now stands where to be a wharf, but later added a couple of blocks to the growing city.

Can feel the history around the restaurant's sloping floor, ceiling and brass bar rail. The hold two centuries of secrets, old photos and paintings of the building, and the last license issued from New York State the State took over that

1986. There's also a charming photo of the cafe's late owner, who was black kissing in front of the cafe in 1979. Their mother now runs the operation.

The cafe is in the Seaport Historic District, along with other landmark establishments. Among them is the Pines Cafe, in the building that housed Meyer's Hotel, where the Edison stopped while he was writing up the city's first electric power plan nearby. Carmine's, an popular waterfront bar and is celebrating its centennial year.

Planes, the Bridge Cafe's chef, relishes the pungent history of the Fulton Fish Market, and two away. He often shops during pre-dawn hours when stocks of freshly caught fish are

Having the fish market so close can also be a godsend when Planas runs out of fish in the middle of a particularly hectic lunch service, he says.

He remembers calling his fishmonger in a panic — "Can you give me a 12-pound salmon? I'll be there in two minutes." He's been seen more than once running up the street with a large fish in his arms.

Fish always has a place on his menus. "There are a thousand things you can do with one fish," says Planas, who at 28 is one of the city's youngest executive chefs.

Planes, a Cuban-American Miami transplant, may be young, but he's been cooking for 20 years. He learned when he was 8 and his parents divorced. "When my brother and I visited my father, he only knew how to order pizza," so out of self-preservation Planas learned to cook. He credits his mom as the source of his baking expertise.

Both parents have eaten at the Bridge Cafe and it amuses Planas that each one claims credit for their son's career choice.

Planes literally cooked his way up the East Coast. In the Washington, D.C., area where he lived as a teenager, he began working after school in a grocery and butcher shop, and then in restaurants peeling potatoes and washing dishes, gradually learning the business. His training grounds included Washington's Jean Louis and the Red Sage, then Pier 5 and the Polo Grill in South Carolina.

In New York City, he got more formal education at the French Culinary Institute, and learned about fish when he worked at Aquagrill, a seafood restaurant in SoHo. He was the sous chef at Tavern on the Green before taking on the Bridge Cafe. He's recreated the cafe's menu, adding his signature to two longtime favorites that are still on it, Buffalo steak and soft shell crabs. The restaurant may be in the city's oldest such building, but the cuisine is new and cutting edge.

He changes it each season. "The winter is nature's down time," he said, so that's the shortest menu. "I

try as hard as I can to stick with seasonal ingredients."

He uses the freshest local produce he can get, he says, from farms in upstate New York and nearby Pennsylvania, because he believes it tastes better, a lesson learned during his culinary apprenticeship.

On his menu as a winter appetizer is a vegetarian Tuscan white-bean soup. Other winter items include skillet-fried organic chicken with spicy collard greens, mashed sweet potato, and maple-vinegar gravy. He offers a vegetarian risotto with winter squash, caramelized Vidalia onions and fresh rosemary. There's also braised lamb shank with slow-roasted organic polenta.

The chef's Southern roots come through not only with grits and vegetables, but with a real Key lime tart and tangerine sorbet.

In passing along his recipes, Planas says readers can adapt them according to what ingredients they have. "When I bake I am exact," he says, "but otherwise, use common sense and do it by feel. Use your nose and eyes."

The following diver sea-scallop dish on his winter menu is an easy-to-do recipe that makes an entree for four or an appetizer for eight, if you halve the servings, he says.

Planes uses large hand-harvested, unprocessed scallops, what they call in the trade, "dry sea scallops," but he says any large scallops can be used. He also uses hand-milled grits from Anson Mills in South Carolina.

DIVER SEA SCALLOPS WITH WHITE CORN GRITS, BELGIAN ENDIVE AND PANCETTA BEURRE NOISSETTE
1/2 cup (or a bit more) white corn grits
1 1/2 cups milk
4 Belgian endives

24 large scallops
1/4 pound pancetta (prosciutto can be used but pancetta is more peppery)

Extra-virgin olive oil
1 to 2 pats of butter
Salt and pepper to taste
Sugar

To make the grits:
The ratio of milk to grits is usually 2 1/2 to 1. Bring the milk to a boil and add the grits a little at a time, stirring constantly until loose and creamy. Set aside and keep warm.

To prepare the endive: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Split each endive into four pieces lengthwise and coat with extra-virgin olive oil. Sprinkle generously with salt and pepper and a bit of sugar. Roast in a 400 degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes, just until warm.

To prepare the scallops and pancetta: Sprinkle the scallops with salt and pepper to taste, and a touch of olive oil. Sear them in a saute pan until they are just brown around the edges. (Do a few at a time so you don't crowd the pan.) Add a pat of butter to the pan and flip the scallops over. Cook for 1 or 2 minutes on the other side. They should be medium-rare. Remove the scallops to a plate to keep warm.

Dice the pancetta into very small pieces and saute in the remaining butter in the scallop pan until crispy. Add 1 more pat of butter if needed.

To serve: Put a mound of grits in the middle of each plate. Place 4 pieces of endive on the mound so they radiate like spokes from the center of the mound. Arrange 6 scallops around the edge of the mound of grits. Spoon the pancetta and browned butter over the top. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

For the following corn polenta appetizer, you can make the polenta and roasted vegetables

ahead of time.

CORN POLENTA NAPOLEONS WITH GOAT CHEESE AND ROASTED BABY VEGETABLES
2 cups yellow corn polenta
4 cups milk
2 tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper
Extra-virgin olive oil

8 medium portobello mushrooms, stems removed and gills cleaned
8 ounces goat cheese at room temperature
1 tablespoon heavy cream or milk
2 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs (parsley, chives, tarragon, as available)

1 bunch baby beets (red, gold and/or Chioggia, see note)
1 bunch baby turnips
Kosher salt
To make the polenta:

Place the polenta in a pot large enough to hold it and the milk easily. In a separate pot, bring the milk to a boil. Slowly add about 1/3 of the milk to the polenta, stirring constantly over medium heat. Once the milk is absorbed, add more milk slowly, stirring constantly to work out any lumps.

Continue until all the milk is absorbed. Lower heat to medium-low and slowly stir the polenta until completely cooked, about 10 minutes. Add 2 tablespoons of butter, and season with salt. Turn polenta out onto a buttered sheet pan and smooth with a spoon to a thickness of about 1 1/2 inches. Cool in the refrigerator.

To roast the vegetables: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove all but 1 inch of the green tops from beets and turnip. Wash and pat dry. Season liberally with salt and pepper and enough oil just to coat. Wrap each vegetable separately in aluminum foil. Cover bottom of pan or oven-

proof dish with 1/2 inch of kosher salt and place foil packages on top. Roast in 400 F oven until knife tip enters easily, about 35 minutes. When cool enough to handle, gently peel outer skin. This can be done with a kitchen towel. Split each vegetable in half lengthwise.

To prepare mushrooms and goat cheese: Lightly oil the mushrooms and season with salt and pepper. Grill the mushrooms until done, about 5 minutes per side. Alternatively, the mushrooms can be roasted in a 400 degree oven until done, about 8 minutes. Whip the goat cheese with the heavy cream until smooth. (Use the paddle of your mixer or whip by hand.) Add the chopped fresh herbs, and season with salt and pepper. Combine and let stand at room temperature.

Using a 2 1/2-inch ring mold or cookie cutter (or an empty tuna can), cut out 8 polenta circles. Fry them in a pan with oil (or deep fry) until crispy on the outside and golden brown. With the same cutter cut out 8 mushroom circles from the center of each mushroom. Warm up the mushrooms on the grill or in the oven. Warm up the beets and turnips in a saute pan with a minimal amount of oil or butter.

To assemble the Napoleons: Place a small spoonful of the goat cheese in the center of each of 4 plates. Place one hot polenta circle on top, then add more goat cheese, followed by a mushroom, repeating until each plate has 2 pieces of polenta and 2 mushrooms with goat cheese between each layer. A mushroom will be on top. Scatter the beets and turnips around the Napoleon. Makes 4 servings.

Note: Beets can range in color from deep red to white. The Chioggia, also called "candy cane," has concentric rings of red and white.

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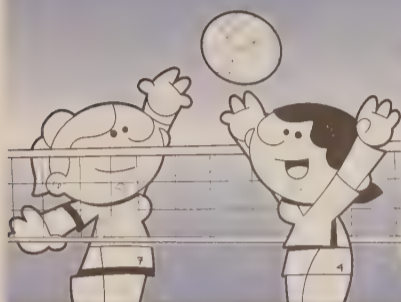
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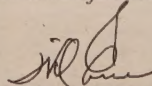
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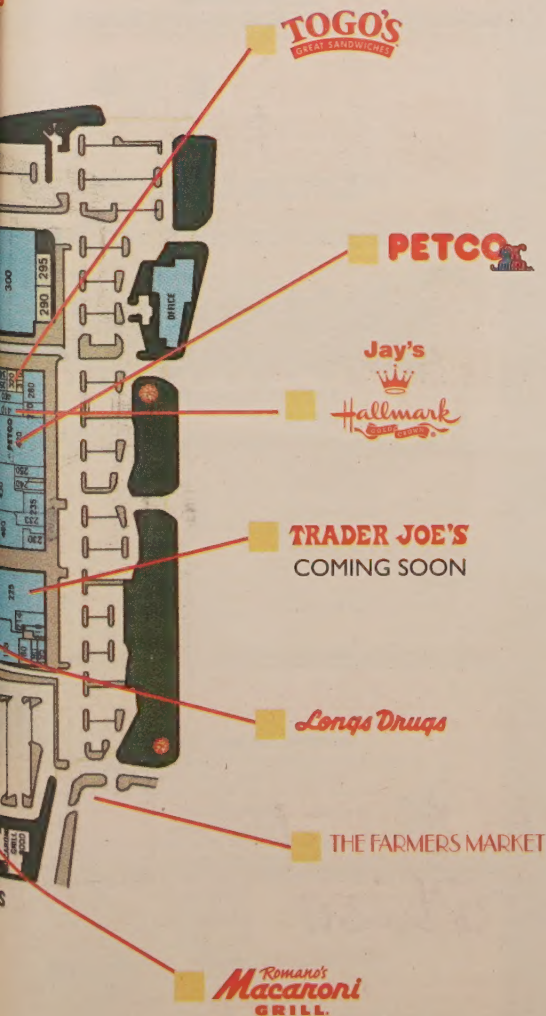


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